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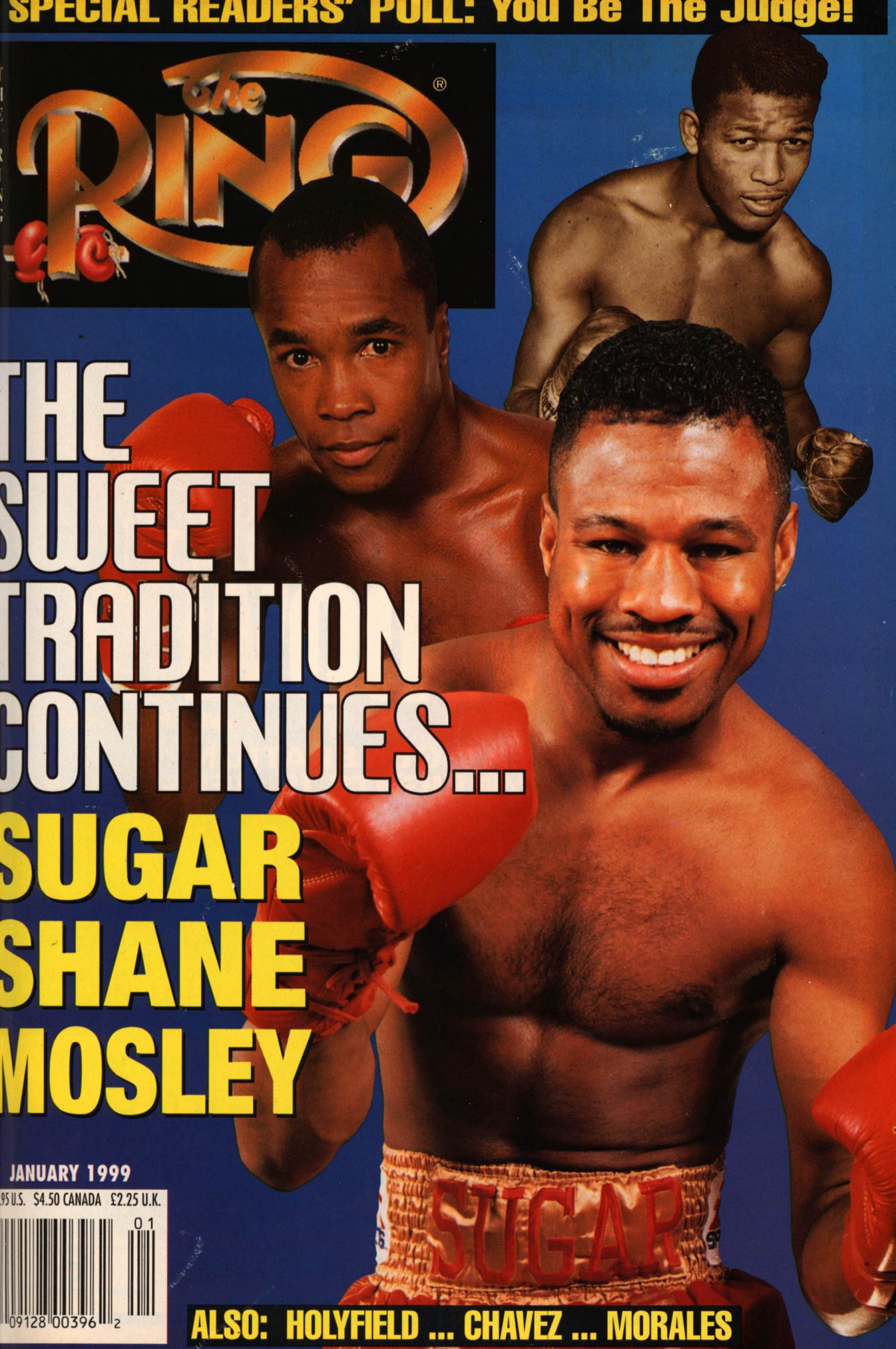

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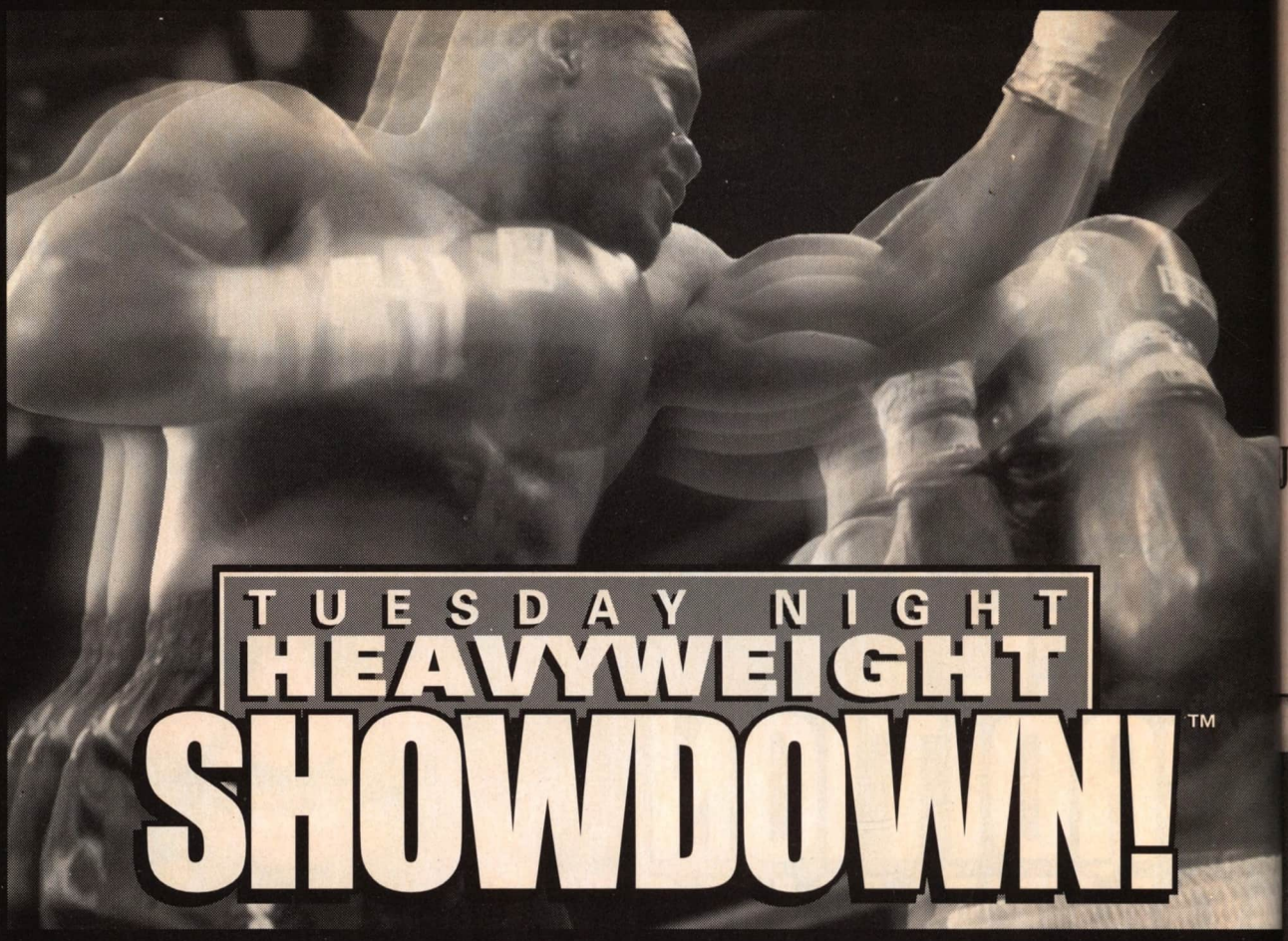

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RINGSIDE

Accountability in boxing is almost as rare as double knockouts, and is one of the main reasons for the kind of back-room subterfuge that has made a mockery of the rankings issued by the various alphabet organizations. These guys do pretty much as they please, arbitrarily zooming fighters up and down the ratings as they see fit, regardless of whether or not what has occurred in the ring justifies the moves they make. But the winds of change are in the air, and the day could be coming when the Alphabet Boys will actually have to explain themselves.

One of the provisions of the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, currently under consideration by congress, requires that sanctioning bodies provide a written explanation to any boxer whose position changes among that group's top 10. And politicians aren't the only ones who think the alphabet organizations should be forced to justify their actions.

"Every federation should have an explanation of how they rank, so that everybody can see how people get ranked," WBA/IBF heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield told THE RING in an interview that appeared in the April 1998 issue. "If they don't clarify that, then people are always gonna be mad."

As long-time readers probably know, it was THE RING, in 1925, that originated the concept of ranking boxers. And in keeping with that ground-breaking tradition, we have decided to practice what we preach and provide a "Ratings Analysis" *(page 13)* every issue. Therefore, from now on, not only will readers be able to see what changes have been made since the last edition, but also the thinking behind the adjustments.

I don't expect this latest addition to "THE RING's International Ratings" to bring universal acceptance of every ranking we make, but it should, at the very least, lead to a greater understanding of the process. And that's a good thing. While certainly not infallible, THE RING has nothing to hide. I'm not at all sure the WBC, WBA, IBF, et al, can say the same thing.

***

I had to pinch myself to see if I was dreaming when the news broke that all parties concerned had come to an agreement and that a heavyweight unification fight between Holyfield and Lennox Lewis would most likely take place in early-1999. It took a marathon negotiating session between rival promoters Don King and Panos Eliades to put the fight together. And while I'm sure money and power were utmost on these men's minds, we can be eternally grateful that the only match in the heavyweight division that really matters has finally been made.

"I wanted to fight for the right reason, and the right reason has always been to be the very best and to be the undisputed champion," said Holyfield.

If only everybody else felt the same way as "The Real Deal." Right now, there are no unified titles. In fact, Holyfield and WBC/WBA light heavyweight champ Roy Jones are the only fighters to hold more than a third of a title. One can only hope that the champions in all the other divisions, not to mention their managers and promoters, take their cues from Holyfield and Lewis and urgently seek unification bouts with their counterparts. Not only would fight fans be ecstatic, it might just kill off the alphabet groups, which would be rendered totally redundant with just one champ in every weight class. But if that ever happens, I'll know I'm dreaming.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 78, No. 1 **January 1999**

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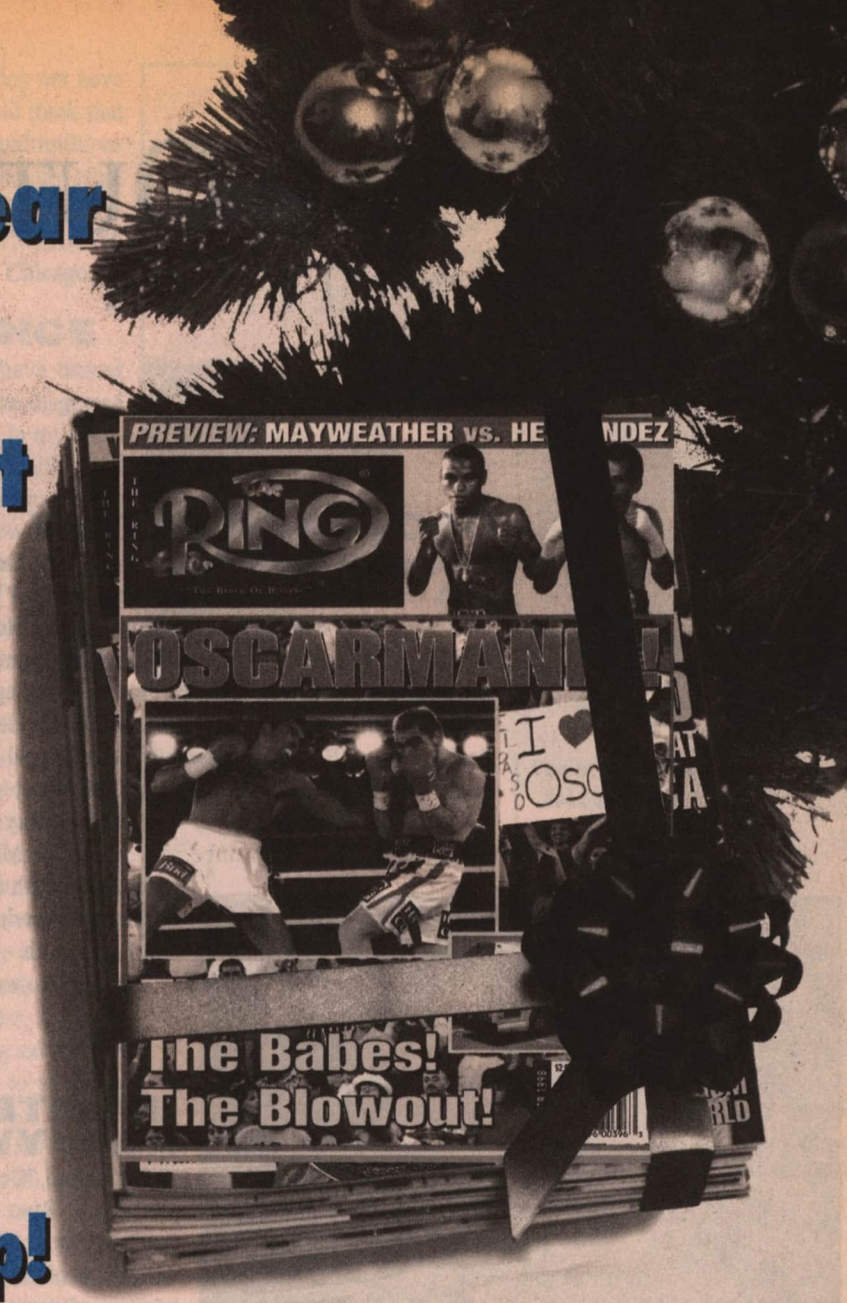

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

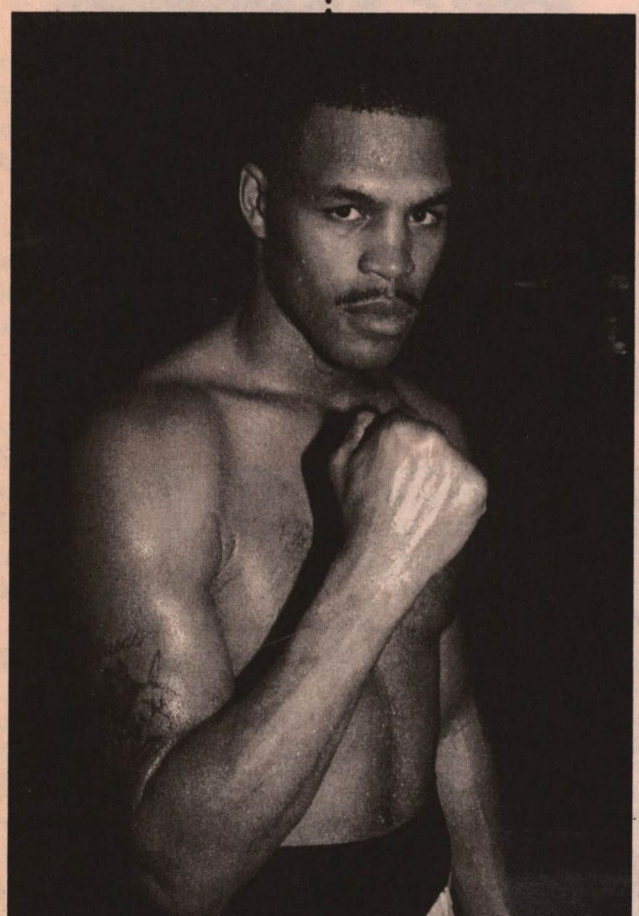
OSCAR UNWORTHY

Regarding William Dettloff's story, "Oscar De La Hoya vs. The All-Time Greats" (November 1998), frankly, at this point in Oscar's career, "The Golden Boy" doesn't merit mention on the same page with some of those ring immortals. How can Mr. Dettloff say that De La Hoya's chin would have allowed him to prevail against Tommy Hearns? Heck, De La Hoya visited the canvas twice early in his career and once more recently against Pernell Whitaker.

Hearns knocked out Roberto Duran, nearly decapitated Pipino Cuevas, and outboxed Wilfred Benitez. Sugar Ray Leonard would've outboxed or outslugged De La Hoya on his worst day. If John-John Molina gave De La Hoya fits, Henry Armstrong would've literally chased him out of the ring. De La Hoya has no defense, and Ray Robinson would've taken him out like he did Rocky Graziano, within three rounds. As for Mickey Walker, well, with "The Toy Bulldog's" superior strength and courage, it would've been man against boy. Walker was fearless, he'd fight heavyweights or man-eaters, just like Harry Greb.

De La Hoya won't even fight top welterweights of *his* time.

ALEXIS MONTALBAN
Spring Valley, NY



Gerald McClellan suffers from brain injuries incurred in his 1995 bout with Nigel Benn. Reader Shawn Travis suggests multimillion-dollar fighters like Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson, and George Foreman should help boxers in McClellan's situation.

UPDATE THE HEAVYWEIGHTS

I'd like to "Come Out Writing" by saying you're doing a fine job in your RING ratings in all of the weight classes, except one: the heavyweights. The heavyweight division has finally emerged with a lot of talent, so there is no need to place fighters there because of name recognition. George Foreman, Shannon Briggs, and Michael Moorer are no longer top-10 fighters. Adding Hasim Rahman, Kirk Johnson, and 1996 Olympic gold medalist Wladimir Klitschko would make that list the best it's been in years.

DALE BUCK
Pittsburgh, PA

BROTHER'S KEEPERS

What ever happened to the saying, "Am I my brother's keeper?" I'm speaking about Gerald McClellan, who suffered career-ending brain damage in his 1995 bout with Nigel Benn. Here was a boxer who always gave 110 percent, a man whose heart equalled that of a young Evander Holyfield. Here's a man who may have beaten Roy Jones, a man who had a bright future. This is a man who's been forgotten. A fallen warrior.

Surely, something can be done. Can't we as a public do something for this man and all boxers who share his plight? What about the promoters who make millions of dollars exploiting these fight-

ers? What about the fighters themselves? Do they not have the morality to try and help this brother? I would think that Tyson, Holyfield, Foreman, and all the other multimillion-dollar fighters would make sure that this man and any other fighter like him would not suffer financially.

SHAWN TRAVIS
Chicago, IL

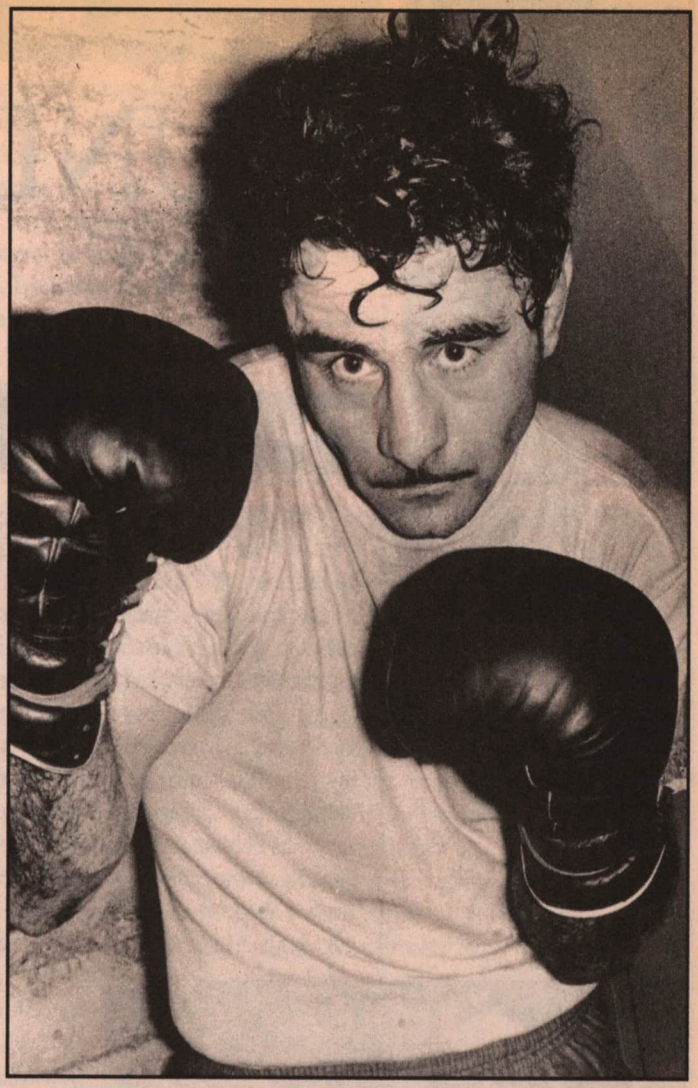
GIVE TYSON A CHANCE

Many boxing fans and Mike Tyson fans have turned their back on Tyson. He is now referred to as "the disgraced former champ," or a disgrace to the sport itself. In my opinion, he is still, first and foremost, the former undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. I feel too many people are remembering the bad things about Tyson's boxing career. In fact, the only bad thing he did was fall victim to Evander Holyfield's retaliation-provoking headbutts. Although Tyson did react very unprofessionally, he apologized publicly to Holyfield, the boxing fans, and the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

I believe he should be reinstated to do what he does best, and that is to be a role model for many young people both black and white, poor and wealthy, and able and disabled, because in a way, he can relate to all these traits. He breeds hope into people's lives in a way only he can do.

Many people may forgive him for his outburst against Holyfield, but for those who don't, please remember the good times he brought into your lives in his prime as champion. Boxing has brought so much into his life such as fame, wealth, respect, and, I dare say, a little happiness. So I ask you one more time, forgive but don't forget the good and the bad times, because if the same were to happen to you, I'm sure you would relish the thought of a second chance.

STEPHEN DONOHUE
Dublin, Ireland



Laszlo Papp was a three-time Olympic gold medalist and an outstanding pro whose career ended prematurely. Reader Gary Liptak wonders what happened to the Hungarian middleweight.

PAPP ON THE BACK

I have always wondered what ever happened to the great Hungarian middleweight Laszlo Papp, who won gold medals in three consecutive Olympics. In 1948, he won the middleweight gold, followed by gold in '52 at light middleweight, and again in 1956 at the same weight. He then went on to a successful pro career with 26 wins and zero losses. In November of '63, he was rated third in the world behind champion Dick Tiger and number-two contender Joey Giardello.

What ended his promising career? Was it injury or frustration at not ever getting a title shot?

For a fighter who is in the record books, along with Rocky Marciano, as never having lost a fight, I find it strange that his accomplishments are never written about. Possibly it's because he was so good that he was shunned by the powers that be, or because he was from an "Iron Curtain" country.

GARY LIPTAK
Jupiter, FL

[Editor's note: Papp, 26-0-3 (15), was ordered to retire by Hungary's communist government in 1965. He later coached his country's Olympic boxing team.]

QUIT DUCKING LEWIS

Evander Holyfield's honeymoon with the true boxing public is finally coming to an end. "The Real Deal" deserves respect for his wins over Mike Tyson and Michael Moorer, but it's time for Evander to do what Mike Tyson wouldn't do, what Riddick "Chicken" Bowe wouldn't do: fight Lennox Lewis!

A true champion would see Lewis has been avoided like the plague by these so-called champions including yourself, Mr. Holyfield. Why? Because he's British? Nah! I think it's because he beats anyone they put in front of him! I think it's because he's a 6'5", 250-pound destroyer with the grace and fluidity of a much smaller man, a deadly right hand that is as fast as lightning, and improving upper body movement.

Rewind the tapes of Holyfield's trilogy with Chicken Bowe. If Bowe was able to repeatedly score with his telegraphed haymaker rights, even knocking Evander out in fight number three, what chance does Holyfield have of avoiding Lewis' finely tuned arsenal?

Slim and none!

BRIAN McCARRAHER
Folsom, CA ■

ROUND ONE

INGLE GOES PUBLIC ON PRIMA DONNA PRINCE

"Naz, I've got something to say to you. I've said it before, but don't think I don't mean it. I don't want to work with you anymore. I'm not chucking you out of the gym, but I don't want to work with you anymore. You can work with John or Dominic, whatever, but I want out."

Brendan Ingle's frank words, contained in *The Paddy And The Prince* by Nick Pitt, reveal the extent to which his relationship with Naseem Hamed has deteriorated. Trainer and pupil had been together for 16 years, had taken British boxing by storm with America set to follow. Now it was over.

Ingle felt he had been ripped off, his percentage of Hamed's purses being cut from 25 percent to 16 percent, and eventually, by his estimates, to four percent. He felt disrespected, most recently having been insulted by Hamed in the company of promoter Frank Warren and Welsh super middleweight Joe Calzaghe. It troubled him that Hamed, whom he nurtured in his gym from the age of seven, had become arrogant and obnoxious. It troubled him more that Hamed was no longer training properly, having to shed 4½ pounds the day of the weigh-in for a bout with Juan Cabrera. And he seethed about an incident in the gym in which Hamed punched 15-year-old Daniel Teasdale in the gut after he had thrust out his left glove to be untied, and the youngster said, "Say please."

Ingle and Hamed: Together but apart

Not for the first time, Ingle pulled back from the brink. He trained Hamed for the Kevin Kelley fight last December and for the Wilfredo Vazquez fight in April, and was expected to again work the corner on October 31 in Atlantic City when the featherweight phenom was to face Irishman Wayne McCullough. That Ingle has gone public with their differences has, however, put their long-term future in doubt.

Hamed feels betrayed by the book's content.

"I know why Brendan has done what he has," he said. "I have made him a millionaire, but he is money-oriented. We have been together for 17 years, but I could never do something like that. I can forgive, but I would not forget, and I will never trust the man.

"It is a sad situation, and the easy option would have been to sack him. But we have been together a long time. I don't know about him, but that still means something to me. A few years ago I might have reacted differently, but I am now mature, I have a beautiful child, and I'd do everything not to let these things affect me.

"I don't know anyone else who would do something like this. Brendan and I have been close. I have seen more of his family than my own. Then this happens."

The partnership has been so mutually beneficial that an irreconcilable parting of the ways, likely on the face of it, is far from inevitable. Good trainers and good fighters are hard to come by, and when the two are combined, the result is usually an enhanced version of both. Ingle and Hamed know this, though they know as well that things will never quite be the same again.

The Paddy And The Prince is published by Yellow Jersey Press. Contact Random House, 20 Vauxhall Bridge Rd., London SW1V 2SA.

—Brian Doogan

BILLY SOOSE, 1915-1998

Former middleweight champion Billy Soose, who gave up an academic career at Penn State to box professionally, died of a stroke at the age of 83 in Horndale, Pennsylvania. Soose, whose spindly physique belied his fistic prowess, abandoned higher education when several other universities threatened to boycott Penn State if he was on the boxing team.

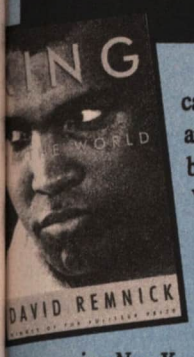
Soose, who turned pro in Los Angeles in March 1938, was managed by Hollywood screenwriter Paul Moss and closely associated with movie star Dick Powell. The Farrell, Pennsylvania, native captured the middleweight championship on May 9, 1941, winning a 15-round decision over Ken Overlin at Madison Square Garden. He relinquished the title nine months later in order to campaign as a light heavyweight. His career, however, came to an abrupt halt in '42 when he joined the Navy. Among the other top fighters Soose defeated during his brief 34-6-1 (13) pro career were Tony Zale, Tami Mauriello, and Ernie Vigh.

After the conclusion of World War II, Soose became a successful businessman, developing 465 acres along Lake Wallenpaupack (Pennsylvania) into a resort, marina, and lounge.

—Nigel Collins

Soose: Former middleweight champ dies at 83

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



One of the problems with analyses of the career of Muhammad Ali is that too many of them are done by people who think that Ali invented boxing when he wasn't busy ending the Vietnam War and skewering racism.

While David Remnick sometimes veers in that direction in *King Of The World: Muhammad Ali And The Rise Of An American Hero* (Random House, 336 pages, $25), the Pulitzer Prize-winning *New Yorker* editor has authored an admirably even-handed and dead-on account of Ali's impact on boxing and modern culture (and vice versa) that deserves marquee billing in the growing library of books about the first three-time heavyweight champion in history.

In fact, the first quarter of this always engrossing book sets the stage for the arrival of Cassius Clay by giving an in-depth, fascinating look at his predecessors, Floyd Patterson and Sonny Liston, and their two very brief encounters ("The Good Negro" vs. "The Threatening Negro"), and goes on to follow their own intriguing and tortured lives as they intertwined with Ali's. While Ali's current debility is poignantly covered, the focus of the book is on his life and career up to his exile after his 1967 conviction for refusing to be drafted into the U.S. Army.

While Ali is a virtually sainted figure today, many of his idolaters forget or ignore that in his early days he often gave vent to an appalling streak of cruelty. Remnick doesn't, but apparently thinks it was mitigated by an "undertone of humor," and that the targets of Ali's viciousness (like Joe Frazier, "the white man's Negro") misunderstood it because they were not sufficiently "self-assured." Likewise, Remnick is almost sneeringly condescending toward columnist Jimmy Cannon, who, used to the public demeanor of Joe Louis, was incensed by Ali's Barnumry and militancy.

Too, Remnick is guilty now and then of overreaching to make a point (e.g., citing "Two Ton" Tony Galento in his "history of fighters … who end up damaged" because Galento wrestled an octopus). But overall this is a balanced and sometimes masterful account of heavyweight boxing in the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, and of the man who, for good or ill, changed the sport forever. Where other books about the subject deserve no more than a fast shuffle, this one merits an Ali Shuffle.

—Pete Ehrmann

THE GLOVE WAR

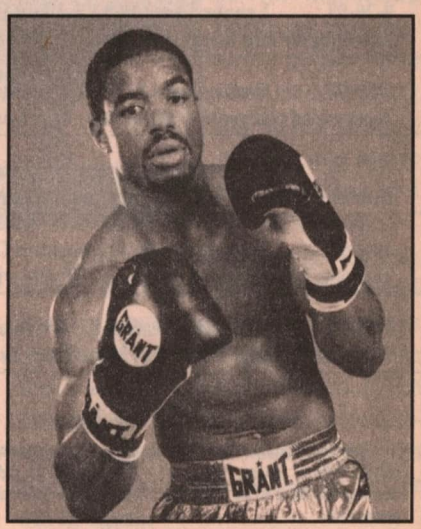
A catchweight bout between long-time boxing equipment manufacturer Everlast and new-kid-on-the-block Grant is headed for federal court. Grant founder, 32-year-old upstart Grant Elvis Phillips, accuses Everlast of conducting a smear campaign against him and his company to protect its estimated 70 percent market share. Grant's lawsuit charges that Everlast violated antitrust statutes by discrediting him and his company among boxing managers, promoters, and prospective investors.

"Boxing is a very small community, where word of mouth gets around quickly, so it doesn't take much to get your name ruined in this business," Grant told *USA Today*. "Everlast raked me through the coals. Everywhere we went, the door was closed."

The lawsuit alleges that Everlast's anti-Grant campaign included spreading rumors that Grant pays off promoters to bribe fighters to wears its gloves; that Phillips is the illegitimate son of a Las Vegas promoter; and that he steals Everlast products from dressing rooms, prompting boxers to wear Grant gloves.

"We don't try cases in the press," David Harrison, corporate counsel for Everlast, told THE RING. "I won't make any comment as to the substance of the suit, but we have denied all allegations. Right now, the case is in the discovery phase and the court has ordered the plaintiff to produce its evidence pertaining to the antitrust allegations."

Stay tuned for round two.



David Reid wears Grant gloves

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
9-18-98	Mia St. John W 4 Brenda Felton	PPV	f	D-	D	C
We'd watch former model St. John sweep fresh entrails off a slaughterhouse floor						
9-18-98	Antonio Diaz KO 12 Hector Quiroz	PPV	jw	C+	A	A-
How did this competitive, evenly matched fight find its way onto a Bob Arum undercard?						
9-18-98	**Yory Boy Campas KO 3 Larry Barnes**	**PPV**	**IBF jm**	**B+**	**D**	**C-**
The guy wearing the deer head was scarier than Barnes						
9-18-98	**Oscar De La Hoya KO 8 Julio Cesar Chavez**	**PPV**	**WBC w**	**A+**	**C**	**B+**
De La Hoya made this harder than it had to be; bring on Quartey!						
9-19-98	**Robert Allen KO 1 Abdula Ramadan**	**Show**	**Int. IBF m**	**B**	**D**	**D**
If you're wondering why this fight was made, note that Allen is a Don King fighter						
9-19-98	**Evander Holyfield W 12 Vaughn Bean**	**Show**	**WBA/IBF h**	**A+**	**C-**	**B-**
If this didn't cure Henry Akinwande's hepatitis, nothing will						
9-22-98	Angel Manfredy W 12 John Brown	TNT	jl	B-	B	A
"El Diablo" pushed to the brink in surprisingly competitive scrap						
9-22-98	**Shane Mosley KO 5 Eduardo Morales**	**TNT**	**IBF l**	**A**	**C+**	**B**
Hard-punching Morales a pleasant surprise, but still no match for Sugar Shane						
9-25-98	Eric Morel KO 6 Rodolfo Blanco	ESPN2	jb	C-	B	B
"Little Hands Of Steel" lives up to his nickname in impressive drubbing						
9-25-98	Lucia Rijker KO 5 Marcela Acuna	ESPN2	jw	C	C+	B-
Acuna turns pro against Christy Martin, then faces Rijker; when's she going to challenge herself?						
9-25-98	Zahir Raheem KO 5 Shawn Powell	ESPN2	jl	C-	D+	C+
Powell wins over crowd with gutsy effort, but slick Raheem in another class						
9-25-98	Raul Marquez W 10 Jose Flores	ESPN2	jm	C+	B+	C
Good solid win for Marquez after long layoff						
9-25-98	Dana Rosenblatt W 12 Terry Norris	ESPN2	jm	B+	B	C+
Norris 31 going on 40; Rosenblatt enters the De La Hoya sweepstakes						
9-26-98	Tony Lopez KO 3 Jaime Ocegueda	USSB	jw	D	B+	C+
Yep, that Tony Lopez						
9-26-98	**Lennox Lewis W 12 Zeljko Mavrovic**	**HBO**	**WBC h**	**A+**	**D**	**B-**
Just imagine how inept Lewis would be if he didn't have Emanuel Steward in his corner						
9-29-98	Rodney Jones KO 8 William Ruiz	FOXSN	jm	C+	B+	C
A one-sided bludgeoning all the way; Ruiz never in it						
10-2-98	Andrew Golota W 10 Tim Witherspoon	ESPN2	h	B+	C+	C
How bad are things in Poland that Golota is a national icon?						
10-2-98	Thomas Tate W 12 Demetrius Davis	ESPN2	sm	B	B-	C
Tate puts himself in line for shot at IBF title with smart, workman-like victory						
10-3-98	**Floyd Mayweather KO 8 Genaro Hernandez**	**HBO**	**WBC jl**	**A+**	**A**	**B+**
We get the feeling "Pretty Boy Floyd" may be the best Mayweather yet						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime

THE TWO SIDES OF SUGAR RAY

During the first few minutes of the new HBO documentary *Sugar Ray Robinson: The Bright Lights And Dark Shadows Of A Champion*, the legendary welterweight and middleweight champion is seen explaining that the nickname "Sugar" was bestowed upon him because of how sweet his movements and skills inside the ring were. And while the multitude of classic fight clips on display do nothing but reinforce the belief that Robinson was the greatest pound-for-pound fighter ever, the majority of the footage of his personal life and the opinions expressed by those close to him paint an unflattering picture that has to make his fans glad he was never nicknamed for his outside-the-ring behavior.

Over the course of the seamlessly edited hour-long biographical sketch, accompanied perfectly by the jazz sounds of Wynton Marsalis that help transport the viewer back to the Robinson era, we see the many sides of Sugar Ray that are often overshadowed by his magnificent boxing skills. The documentary shows us Robinson the entrepreneur, the expert negotiator, the philandering playboy, the skilled dancer, the hopeless singer, the abusive husband, and the father who was great with all children but his own. We see him as a young amateur, an unbeatable welterweight (primarily in stills because virtually no film footage of his early career exists), an aging middleweight warrior, and as a virtually broke, dying legend whose mental decline clearly was helped along by him fighting until the age of 44.

The story is told by boxing experts, opponents, family, and members of Robinson's "entourage," and the conclusions are all the same. Robinson was among both the Sweet Science's greatest fighters and its greatest personalities, but he was an egomaniac who was a lot easier to hate than he was to love. From the moment we see a shocking clip of a married Robinson flirting in a hotel room with another girl, forcing us to visualize what most of us had only heard about, we see him in a whole new light.

Robinson, clowning with Ray Jr., has personal life exposed in documentary

But in the face of tears, we can't help but feel for him. The footage of Robinson crying, struggling to force a phony smile for the media after proving his doubters wrong by recapturing the middleweight title from Bobo Olson, is tremendously moving. And when Ray Jr. fights back tears explaining how much he misses his screw-up of a father, we ultimately recognize Sugar Ray as neither good nor bad, but altogether complicated and compelling.

—Eric Raskin

HALLOWEEN COMES EARLY

The man wearing the devil's mask had beaten a fighter wearing a nun's habit (Jorge Paez) and one wearing a championship belt (Arturo Gatti). But could he beat an opponent dressed up like an Ewok from *Return Of The Jedi*?

When top-ranked junior lightweight Angel Manfredy stepped into the ring at The Theater at Madison Square Garden to face spoiler John Brown on September 22, "El Diablo" was not only outfought much of the way, he was also outdone in the costume department. Atlantic City's Brown took a trip with his manager, Dave Appolonia, to Pierre's Costume Shop in Pennsauken, New Jersey, and came away with a visual representation of his "Eastern Beast" moniker. Brown sported a fanged bulldog mask covered by a furry brown hood, as well as accompanying fur sleeves. The getup looked more silly than anything else, but that didn't really bother Brown.

"It was a good thing to do for a nationally televised fight on TNT. It was purely for entertainment," Brown said. "When I was first walking around in the dressing room with the costume on, it was kind of shocking to everybody, but it was just funny to me. Next time, I want to go for something scarier and more realistic, maybe with some blood dripping off it. But it was a costume that people will remember, so I guess it worked."

Photo by Frank Vitucci

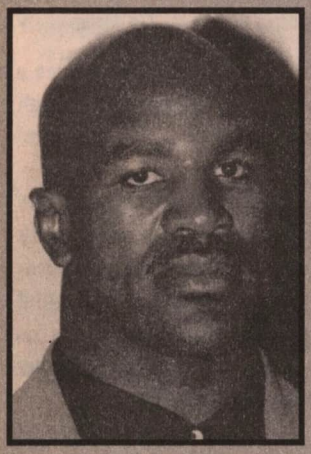
Brown with the mask and without

People will also remember the way Brown battered the heavily favored Manfredy over most of the first seven rounds, only to run out of gas down the stretch and lose a disputed decision. If The Eastern Beast gets the rematch he's pursuing, he promises the costume will be even more outrageous, and you can bet the fur will fly again.

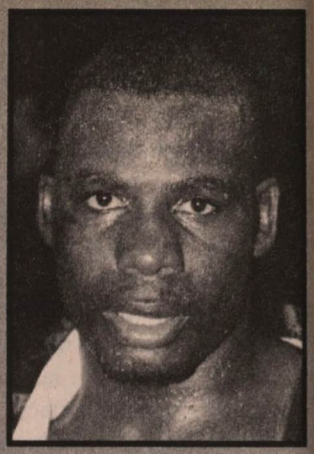
—Eric Raskin

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Archie Moore's mark of 141 career *knockouts* is certainly well out of **Evander Holyfield's** reach, but "The Real Deal" may be closing in on boxing's career record for *knock-ups*. The WBA/IBF heavyweight champ admitted in September that in addition to the son born that month to his wife, **Janice**, he had also fathered children to two other women less than a year earlier. That brings Holyfield's total to nine children, including three to his first wife, **Paulette**, and three more out of wedlock. Holyfield financially supports all his children ... Former middleweight champion **Jake LaMotta** sued Swissair and Boeing Co. for $50-million in early-September, claiming they did little or nothing to correct wiring problems on the MD-11 aircraft that crashed on September 2. LaMotta's son, **Joseph**, was among the 229 people who died when the plane went down off Nova Scotia ... Promoter **Cedric Kushner** sued **Don King** in late-September for damages in excess of $12-million, charging that King paid undefeated heavyweight **Hasim Rahman** to leave Kushner and pull out of his September 26 fight with **David Tua**. Rahman admitted that King paid him $100,000 to break his contract with Kushner and withdraw from the fight, which was to be televised on HBO. "As far as I'm concerned, Hasim Rahman no longer exists," said infuriated HBO Sports Vice President **Lou DiBella** ... In the midst of **Mike Tyson's** struggles to regain his boxing license and improve his financial situation, the IRS placed a tax lien on the former heavyweight champ's three homes. According to Tyson's accountant, **Michael Karlin**, Tyson owes $12.6-million in back taxes. In September, Tyson signed a $33-million agreement with Showtime for a series of fights, but, Karlin told *Street & Smith's SportsBusiness Journal*, "he may have no option but to declare bankruptcy" if he does not fight before the end of the year ... **Lennox Lewis'** September 26 WBC heavyweight title defense against **Zeljko Mavrovic** pulled in a 10.3 rating, up one full rating point from his previous fight. That marked the fifth consecutive HBO *World Championship Boxing* presentation to score a double-digit rating ... Former heavyweight champion **Joe Frazier** was cleared in late-September of drunk-driving charges by the Municipal Court in his hometown of Philadelphia. The charges stemmed from an April 7 incident when Frazier was pulled over with a blood-alcohol level of .098. Frazier, who claimed the apparent intoxication was actually caused by medication he was taking, joked after the acquittal, "I'm back on the scene like a wrecking machine."



Holyfield: Kid count increases



Rahman: Causes a lawsuit

THE PUNCHLINES

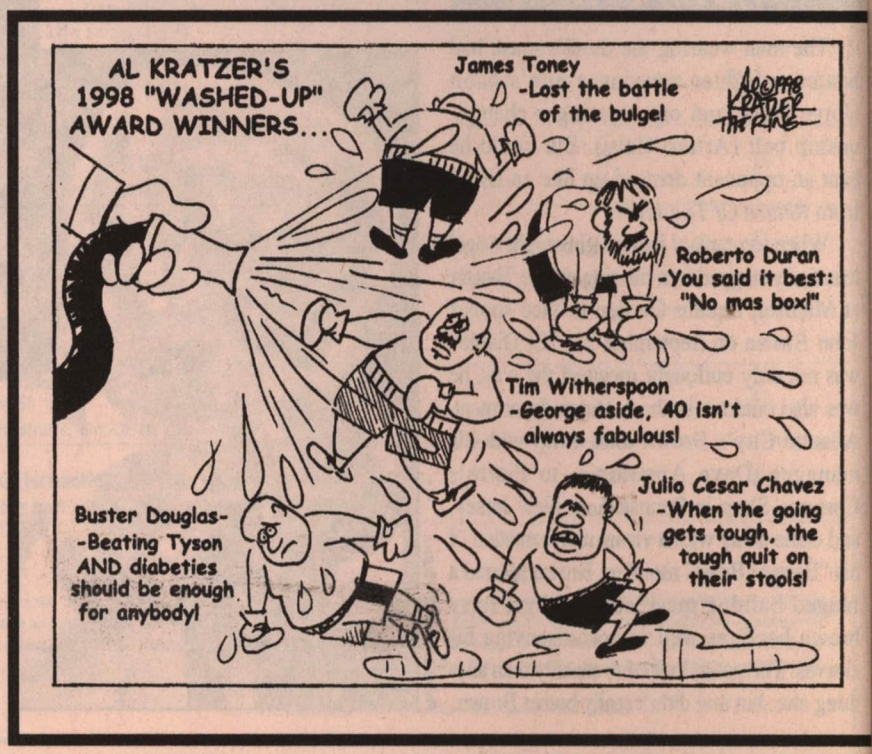
"It looks as if he has as much body fat as a nail."

—HBO analyst Larry Merchant on Erik Morales

"What Naz wanted to do to me but can't because I'm too old, he'll do to McCullough."

—Naseem Hamed's trainer, Brendan Ingle, alluding to the feud between himself and his pupil at the press conference announcing "The Prince's" fight with Wayne McCullough

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



The RING ®
"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Flyweight
6. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
7. **NASEEM HAMED**
   Featherweight
8. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Junior Bantamweight
9. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Lightweight
10. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
    Strawweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS: IBF/WBA champ Evander Holyfield and WBC titlist Lennox Lewis continue to hold down the top two spots despite disappointing performances in successful title defenses over unranked Vaughn Bean and Zeljko Mavrovic, respectively. Inactive Michael Moorer slips from four to five, and is replaced by Michael Grant.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No movement in the moribund 190-pound division.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Nobody close to overtaking WBC/WBA king Roy Jones, who rules supreme at number one. IBF champ Reggie Johnson still on the shelf due to shoulder surgery.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: WBA champ Frankie Liles hanging onto top position by his fingernails, with busy IBF boss Charles Brewer in good position to pass him soon because of greater activity. WBC titlist Richie Woodhall slipped from three to four last month due to controversial decision over unheralded Glenn Catley.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Robert Allen, who entered at number seven last month due to strong showing in abbreviated no-contest with IBF champ Bernard Hopkins, has since won the organization's Interim title with first-round kayo of former sparring partner Abdula Ramadan.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: IBF champ Yory Boy Campas has replaced WBA titlist Laurent Boudouani (now number two) at the top spot due to his busy schedule of title defenses, the most recent of which was a third-round TKO of Larry Barnes. Washed-up former champ Terry Norris falls out of the top 10 for the first time in years after his decision loss to Dana Rosenblatt. Rosenblatt, however, failed to make list because he faded badly down the stretch. Comebacking Raul Marquez returns to the ratings with workman-like decision over Shibata Flores.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Julio Cesar Chavez exits 147-pound ranks after TKO loss to WBC champ Oscar De La Hoya, making room for Derrell Coley at the number-10 position.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Chavez, back at his natural weight at number seven, showed that there's still some fight left in his 36-year-old body in loss to De La Hoya. Reggie Green, who can't seem to get a significant fight, slides from six to nine.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Inactivity drops ex-champs Orzubek Nazarov (from fifth to sixth) and Phillip Holiday (from sixth to seventh), while streaking Israel Cardona jumps from the seventh spot to fifth.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Floyd Mayweather Jr. zooms to the number-one spot after stopping Genaro Hernandez for WBA belt. Hernandez falls all the way from first to sixth after quitting on his stool. Look for "Chicanito" to move up to the 135-pound division in the near future.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: An out-of-shape Freddie Norwood stops Japanese challenger Koji Matsumoto after losing WBA belt at the scales. Antonio Cermeno stops Genaro Rios to win vacant title and enters at fifth spot.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: New entry Carlos Barreto win WBA Interim title with decision over Hector Acero-Sanchez to claim number-seven position. He'll face champ Enrique Sanchez, who's been idle while eye cut heals, in December.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: IBF champ Tim Austin remains the class of the field despite having relatively few fights.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: South Korean In Joo Cho debuted at number two last month due to upset decision over Gerry Penalosa to garner WBC belt, but that wasn't enough to overtake IBF champ Johnny Tapia, who's entrenched at number one.

FLYWEIGHTS: Former IBF junior fly champ Mauricio Pastrana wins WBA Interim title with 12-round decision over Jose Bonilla and enters at number four.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: Faded two-time former champ Michael Carbajal departs, and Hawk Makepula and Hadao CP Gym arrive at ninth and 10th positions, respectively.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Wandee Chor Chareon became WBC Interim champ with decision over Rocky Lin. Chareon will get mandatory crack at the winner of November rematch between reigning WBC champ Ricardo Lopez and WBA kingpin Rosendo Alvarez.

POUND-FOR-POUND: Brilliant IBF lightweight monarch Shane Mosley enters at number nine, bumping out Bernard Hopkins, and long-time pound-for-pound champ Pernell Whitaker continues to slide due to inactivity. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended October 7, 1998

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Raul Marquez returned to the rankings by outpointing Jose Flores

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** — Fairburn, GA 36-3 (WBA/IBF Champ)
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England 34-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **GEORGE FOREMAN** — Marshall, TX 76-5
4. **MICHAEL GRANT** — Norristown, PA 28-0
5. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI 39-2
6. **SHANNON BRIGGS** — New York, NY 31-2
7. **CHRIS BYRD** — Flint, MI 26-0
8. **IKE IBEABUCHI** — Dallas, TX 19-0
9. **DAVID TUA** — Tokowa, NJ 31-1
10. **ANDREW GOLOTA** — Chicago, IL 32-3

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France 39-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** — Germany 24-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **IMAMU MAYFIELD** — New Brunswick, NJ 18-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** — Argentina 23-2-1
5. **CARL THOMPSON** — England 24-4
6. **ROBERT DANIELS** — Miami, FL 38-3-1
7. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV 28-4-1
8. **RALF ROCCHIGIANI** — Germany 40-9-7
9. **SAUL MONTANA** — Mexico 32-6
10. **KENNY KEENE** — Emmett, ID 43-3

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL 37-1 (WBC/WBA Champ)
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany 38-0
3. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX 38-5-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** — Chicago, IL 31-1
5. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** — Germany 40-4-1 (WBC Interim Champ)
6. **LOU DEL VALLE** — Bronx, NY 28-2
7. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND 43-3
8. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA 53-4
9. **ANTONIO TARVER** — Orlando, FL 11-0
10. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** — Philadelphia, PA 24-1

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA 32-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **CHARLES BREWER** — Philadelphia, PA 32-5 (IBF Champ)
3. **JOE CALZAGHE** — Wales 25-0
4. **RICHIE WOODHALL** — England 25-1 (WBC Champ)
5. **ROBIN REID** — England 26-1-1
6. **THOMAS TATE** — Houston, TX 35-5
7. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** — Italy 33-6
8. **HEROL GRAHAM** — England 48-6
9. **ANDREI SCHKALIKOV** — Russia 29-4-1
10. **DEAN FRANCIS** — England 21-1

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA 34-2-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY** — Washington, D.C. 26-1-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **HASSINE CHERIFI** — France 25-2-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **OTIS GRANT** — Canada 31-1-1
5. **KEITH HOLMES** — Washington, D.C. 30-2
6. **ANTWUN ECHOLS** — Davenport, IA 21-2-1
7. **ROBERT ALLEN** — Atlanta, GA 23-2 (IBF Interim Champ)
8. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** — England 31-0
9. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** — Brooklyn, NY 23-3
10. **RYAN RHODES** — England 17-1

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **YORY BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico 72-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France 37-2-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **KEITH MULLINGS**
   Brooklyn, NY 16-4-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **HARRY SIMON**
   Namibia 17-0
5. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina 60-3
6. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL 38-2
7. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI 35-2
8. **TONY MARSHALL**
   Albany, NY 29-7-6
9. **EMMETT LINTON**
   Tacoma, WA 25-2
10. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
    Houston, TX 29-1

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA 29-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 33-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA 41-2-1
4. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana 34-0-1
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico 42-3-2
6. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI 46-2-1
7. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA 25-0
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico 28-3-1
9. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
   Australia 21-0-1
10. **DERRELL COLEY**
    Capitol Heights, MD 32-1-2

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV 39-3 (IBF Champ)
2. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France 32-2 (WBA Champ)
3. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 43-1-1
4. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 21-1-1
5. **HECTOR LOPEZ**
   Palmdale, CA 39-6-1
6. **BOLILLO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 48-3-1
7. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 100-3-2
8. **DIOBELYS HURTADO**
   Miami, FL 26-1
9. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD 28-2
10. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
    Washington, D.C. 42-2

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 29-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France 51-7-2 (WBA Champ)
3. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico 33-2-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 24-1
5. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT 29-2
6. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan 26-1
7. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa 32-1
8. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Philadelphia, PA 26-2
9. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 29-3
10. **JAMES LEIJA**
    San Antonio, TX 36-3-2

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR**
   Grand Rapids, MI 18-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN 25-2-1
3. **TAKANORI HATAKEYAMA**
   Japan 22-0-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea 24-3-1
5. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA 30-0 (IBF Champ)
6. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA 38-2-1
7. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX 24-1
8. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico 37-6-1
9. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
   Kazakhstan 34-3
10. **ARNULFO CASTILLO**
    Mexico 28-0-2

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England 30-0
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines 43-7 (WBC Champ)
3. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO 32-0-1
4. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL 25-4
5. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela 32-2 (WBA Champ)
6. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico 55-10 (IBF Champ)
7. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico 26-1
8. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT 15-0
9. **CESAR SOTO**
   Mexico 52-7-2
10. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
    Puerto Rico 50-8-3

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa 35-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico 31-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN 33-3-1
4. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico 46-2
5. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV 22-1
6. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico 24-0-1 (WBA Champ)
7. **CARLOS BARRETO**
   Venezuela 13-0 (WBA Interim Champ)
8. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa 23-1
9. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE**
   Puerto Rico 23-2-1
10. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ**
    Brooklyn, NY 38-6-3

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH 18-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana 39-3 (WBA Champ)
3. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan 17-4-1 (WBC Champ)
4. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia 40-1
5. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSUK**
   Thailand 16-1
6. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX 24-1
7. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand 15-1
8. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 61-6-3
9. **ADAN VARGAS**
   Mexico 28-1-1
10. **DARIO AZUAGA**
    Paraguay 42-0-1

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM 44-0-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea 13-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan 25-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines 39-1-2
5. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand 14-1-1
6. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia 22-2
7. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia 23-0
8. **RATANACHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand 25-3
9. **JULIO GAMBOA**
   Nicaragua 21-3
10. **JOEL LUNA ZARATE**
    Mexico 32-2-2

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 36-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand 33-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **HUGO SOTO**
   Argentina 50-5-2 (WBA Champ)
4. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia 20-0 (WBA Interim Champ)
5. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela 24-5
6. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 29-1
7. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 37-3
8. **RUBEN SANCHEZ-LEON**
   Mexico 22-7-1
9. **DAVID GUERAULT**
   France 12-0
10. **CHOKVIWAT CHOKCHAI**
    Thailand 30-3

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand 38-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 19-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa 49-10-2
4. **JUAN CORDOBA**
   Argentina 32-4-3
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico 52-5-4
6. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines 24-3-1
7. **OSVALDO GUERRERO**
   Mexico 24-3
8. **YEOSAM CHOI**
   South Korea 18-1
9. **HAWK MAKEPULA**
   South Africa 14-0
10. **HADAO CP GYM**
    Thailand 36-11-1

STRAWWEIGHT
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico 46-0-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua 24-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa 13-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. **WANDEE CHOR CHAREON**
   Thailand 22-3 (WBC Interim Champ)
5. **RATANAPOL SOR VORAPIN**
   Thailand 36-3-1
6. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 38-1
7. **ROCKY LIN**
   Philippines 26-2
8. **ALA VILLAMOR**
   Philippines 29-2-1
9. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico 19-1-1
10. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
    Columbia 30-2

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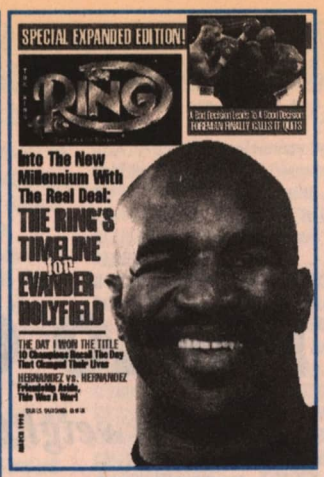

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NEW FACES

JULIO PABLO CHACON

Featherweight

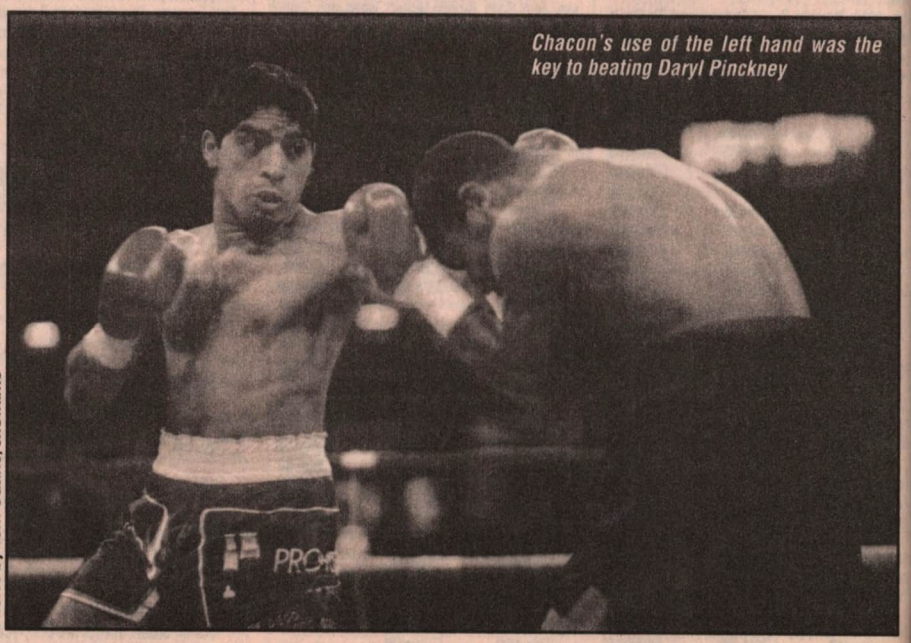
By D.E. Thomas

Never mind that the sun had not even set yet outside the Georgia Dome, that there were more ushers and concession stand workers than fans in the audience, that the main-event fighters would not arrive for another couple of hours.

Julio Pablo Chacon was happy to be a part of Evander Holyfield's world heavyweight championship fight against Vaughn Bean, even buried on the undercard in the most minor of supporting roles. To the young prospect from Argentina, being back in the town that launched him on the path to professional success in the boxing ring was in itself a cause for celebration.

Chacon, a bronze medal winner at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, improved to 25-0 (19) with an eight-round unanimous decision over battle-proven veteran Darryl Pinckney, a major step forward for the 23-year-old featherweight. Chacon won by scores of 78-73 (twice) and 79-72, notching

(Continued on page 59)



Chacon's use of the left hand was the key to beating Daryl Pinckney

Photos by Tom Casino/Showtime

PRO RECORD

1996		
Oct. 11	Eduardo Diaz, Buenos Aires, Argentina	KO 4
Nov. 2	Raul Ubalton, Buenos Aires	KO 1
Nov. 16	Nestor Redondo, Buenos Aires	KO 8
Dec. 21	Juan Cortes, Buenos Aires	KO 2
1997		
Jan. 10	Ricardo Romero, Mar del Plata, Arg.	KO 2
Jan. 31	Andres Salto, Mar del Plata	KO 1
Feb. 15	Oscar Bogarin, Mar del Plata	KO 3
March 22	Jorge Carballo, Ituzaingo, Argentina	KO 2
March 26	Miguel Rodriguez, Mendoza, Arg.	KO 3
April 4	Horacio Basualdo, San Rafael, Arg.	KO 4
May 10	Nestor Ayala, Buenos Aires	KO 6
May 17	Jaime Hernandez, Santiago, Argentina	KO 8
June 21	Vicente Burgo, Buenos Aires	W 10
June 27	Hermogenes Mosquera, La Rioja, Arg.	KO 4
July 11	Walter Farias, Cordoba, Argentina	W 10
Aug. 8	Sergio Nunez, Mendoza	KO 8
Oct. 18	Hector Mari, Neuquen, Argentina	W 8
1998		
Jan. 16	Angel Rivas, Mar del Plata	KO 4
March 12	Hector Mari, Mendoza	KO 2
March 21	Vicente Burgo, Buenos Aires	KO 4
April 30	Oscar Bogarin, Corrientes, Argentina	W 10
June 27	Nestor Farias, Buenos Aires	KO 3
July 25	Ruben Condori, Buenos Aires	KO 4
Aug. 8	Ever Beleno, Buenos Aires	W Disq. 3
Sept. 19	Daryl Pinckney, Atlanta, GA	W 8

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
25	25	0	0	19

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- Marciano's KOs Walcott
- Robinson slugs Gavilan
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Rosario • Ruddock • Morrison • M. Spinks
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RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

OBSERVATION DECK

If you wallow in boxing's craziness long enough, you can't help but become desensitized to much of it. For instance, if you're like me, you one day find yourself annoyed and frustrated because your uncle, the casual fight fan, just can't grasp the idea that strawweight, minimumweight, and mini flyweight really are the same division. Or, in between swigs of beer and bites of hamburger in a sports bar, you try your damndest to get some reader of your column to understand why it is that you recognize the WBA, won't ever recognize the WBF, and might recognize the WBO some day, just not now.

Thank heavens, therefore, for those rare moments of clear perspective, when it dawns on us how truly out-of-whack this sport really is and we can take a step back from the forest in order to view the trees. It's in those rare moments when we feel only like a visitor to the asylum, not one of the patients.

For me, such a moment came a few days before Lennox Lewis' WBC heavyweight title defense against Zeljko Mavrovic, when a radio commercial for the HBO telecast of the bout pointed out, "A world heavyweight title fight doesn't come along every day."

No, just every week. Lewis-Mavrovic took place exactly seven days after WBA/IBF heavy-

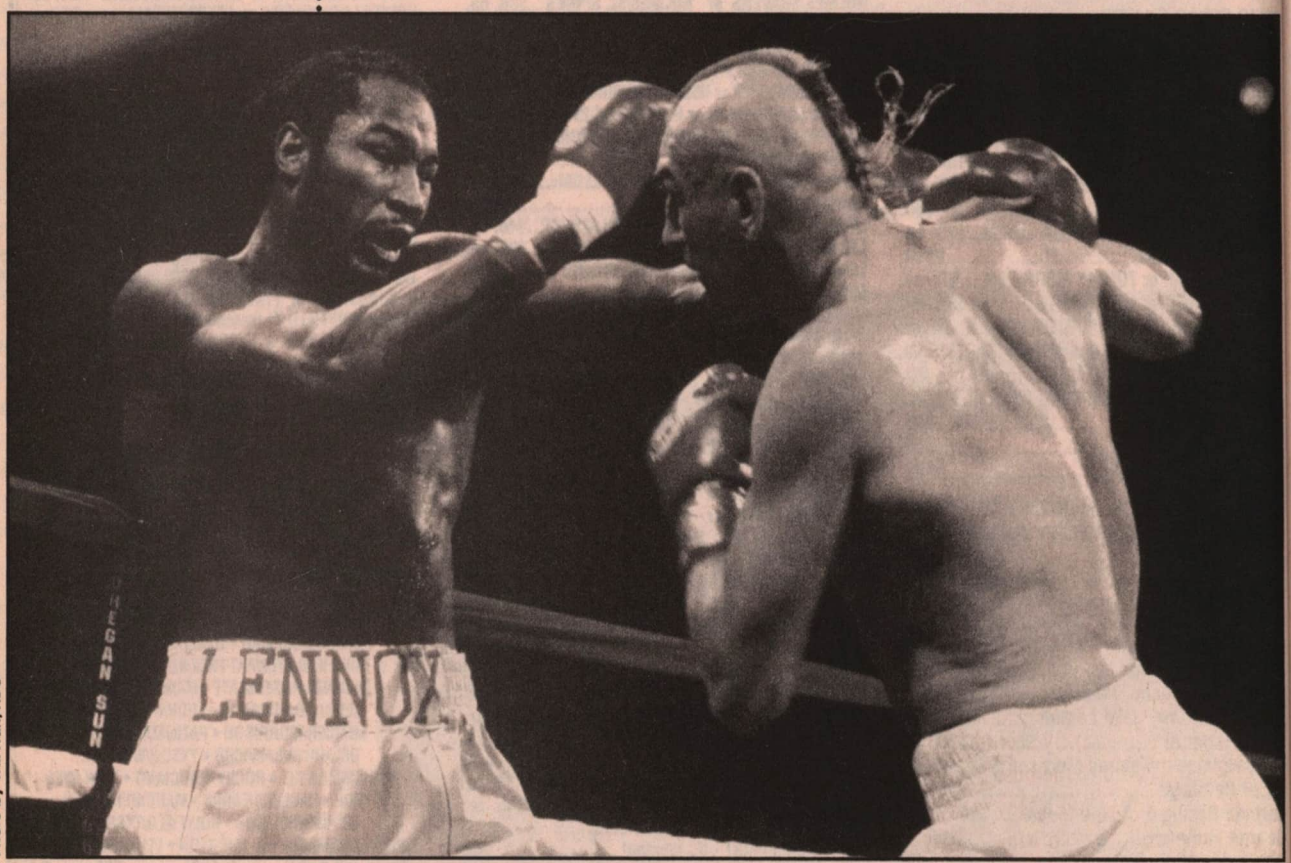


Photo by Will Hart/HBO

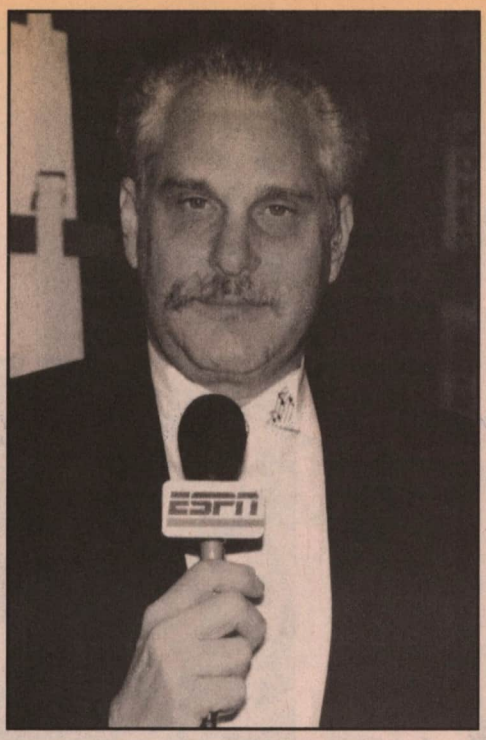
Lewis looked just as lousy against Mavrovic as Holyfield did against Bean

weight king Evander Holyfield defeated Vaughn Bean. (Geez, at least in Joe Louis' day, title shots for bums were spaced a month apart.) Not exactly boxing's finest hour—or two. Maybe we sports fans should just be grateful that there aren't two Super Bowls scheduled for January.

The twin title fights are just one of a few topics worth addressing this month. So here we go ...

1) Check the expiration date!: By now, Holyfield and Lewis should have squared off—maybe for the second time. This delay in making their fight is assuring that the quality of it will be greatly diminished if it ever does take place. And judging by those recent tuneups, Holyfield-Lewis is no sure thing.

All those brutal gut-checks appeared to have caught up to Holyfield in the Bean fight. When "Shake-n-Bake" Bean came in at a jiggly 231 pounds, it seemed certain that he'd be turned into Rice-A-Roni. But Holyfield couldn't get rid of him. Worse, he couldn't get out of the way of Bean's slow, awkward punches. Lewis, meanwhile, continued his pattern of being unable to finish clearly inferior foes. And he swallowed plenty of shots himself against Mavrovic, particularly in the seventh round.



Bernstein must be every bit as upset as Ryan

Holyfield is 36. Lewis is 33. Holyfield, who will probably meet Henry Akinwande next, is wearing his body out with intense training for meaningless fights. Lewis looks like he couldn't get inspired if he was standing toe-to-toe with Rocky Marciano. Holyfield-Lewis still ought to be made because it's the most important fight in the most important division and it will answer many questions. But that now includes one we never would have had to ask if the bout had materialized a year ago: What happens when a fighter who *can't* look great anymore meets one who chooses not to?

2) There's no quit in this guy ... or is there?: One of the strangest phenomena in boxing is the way some proven tough guys suddenly quit when faced with adversity. Most inexplicable is their timing. Sometimes they pack it in when they're taking a less-severe beating than they did in other battles they fought to the finish. Or they quit at a point when, though trailing, they're still in the fight.

Julio Cesar Chavez' surrender in his rematch with Oscar De La Hoya was one of those instances, like Sonny Liston against Cassius Clay, that leaves one scratching his head. Sure, Chavez was losing, and he'd taken some hard shots in the eighth round. But he had performed better than expected up to that point; his being knocked out hardly seemed inevitable, and he had only suffered a cut mouth, not the busted up eyebrow and nose that gushed blood the first time De La Hoya tried to use him as a pinata.

Comparisons to "No Mas" are inevitable. Though this bout wasn't as close on the cards, Chavez, like Roberto Duran, seemed to have concluded that he couldn't win after absorbing a single punch. For Duran, it was an eye-watering jab from Sugar Ray Leonard in round seven; for Chavez it was a left hook-uppercut near the end of the eighth. And Chavez' postfight complaint of sore ribs smacked of Duran's claim of stomach cramps.

Chavez' between-rounds adios may have saved him from further punishment, but when he one day looks back on the images he left us with at the tail end of his career—a refusal to continue when cut in the Frankie Randall rematch, all those excuses following De La Hoya I, splitting because of his split lip—will he be beating himself up far worse?

3) Might as well jump, go ahead and jump: Flip to pages 14 and 15, peruse THE RING Ratings, and determine which are the most exciting marquee matchups that could be made in the lighter weight classes. Notice something? With the exception of De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad and Shane Mosley-Arturo Gatti, they all require that one of the fighters move up in weight.

Mark Johnson (flyweight) vs. Johnny Tapia (junior bantamweight). Naseem Hamed (featherweight) vs. Angel Manfredy (junior lightweight). Manfredy vs. Mosley (lightweight). Hamed vs. Erik Morales (junior featherweight). Bernard Hopkins (middleweight) vs. Frankie Liles (super middleweight). De La Hoya (welterweight) vs. Kostya Tszyu (junior welterweight).

A lot of potential fireworks there. If you subscribe to the theory that the good big man always beats the good little man, then you figure you already know the outcomes. But you know what? A great matchup is a great matchup. Let's see Mosley, Hamed, and the fellas don those labcoats and subject that big man/little man theory to some more rigorous testing.

4) It's not *what* you know that counts ... : Al Bernstein's broadcasting style has never appealed to me. His voice is loud and grating, and his ego is so big that it has its own expense account. So why have I been able to watch Bernstein on ESPN all these years without doing an Elvis number on my Magnavox? Because he is one of the most informative analysts in boxing.

Bernstein is a true expert, someone who knew a little something about *every* fighter on his telecasts, whether it was a top-10 heavyweight or a junior bantam in his fourth pro fight. He provided apparently meaningless bouts with interesting storylines. And he was never afraid to state his opinion. So, of course, there was no place for him on the new series, ESPN2 *Friday Night Fights*.

On the advice of series consultant Bill Cayton, it's Teddy Atlas who has been teamed with Bernstein's old ESPN partner, blow-by-blow announcer Bob Papa. Atlas provides an interesting perspective, but he's no Bernstein. Explains Cayton, "We wanted an entirely new look from the old boxing on ESPN."

That means a number of new segments, film of classic fights, and more celebrity interviews. The new look is fine. Just give me back the old sound. ■

CAMERA CLICKS

Photo by Tom Casino

Michael Grant's bride, Tanya, isn't afraid to stand up to her new husband. The undefeated heavyweight contender was joined by Evander Holyfield and trainers Tommy Brooks and Don Turner for the August ceremony near the newlyweds' Norristown, Pennsylvania, home.

Photo by Scott Romer

An exclusive peak at Butterbean's training table: In order to maintain his ideal weight, "The King Of The Four-Rounders" never strays too far from a plentiful supply of gumballs, M & M's, and Reese's Pieces. Just wait until you see what he eats for dessert.

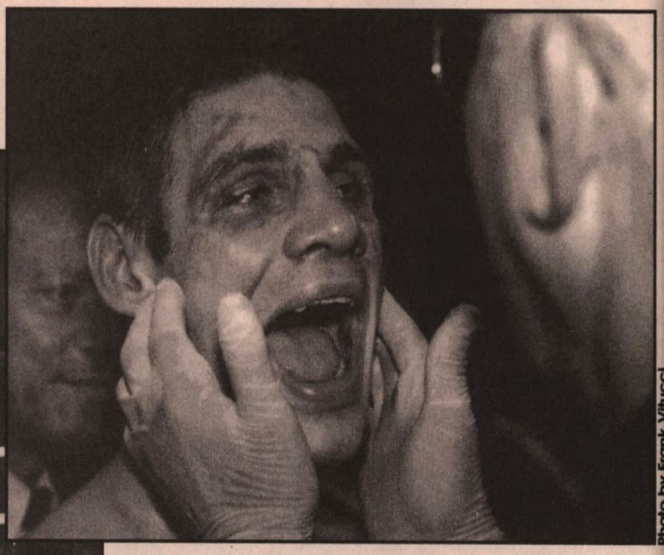


Photo by Frank Vitucci

"Open up and say, 'Ouch!'": Darren Macunski's personal planner made a scheduling blunder on August 22, lining up a tonsil check on the same day as the New Jersey junior middleweight's fight with Fernando Vargas.

Photo by Eric Charbonneau

Lending credence to Christy Martin's theory about the ambiguity of Lucia Rijker's sexuality, the undefeated Holland native sported a protective cup for her recent sparring session with Eddie Zavala. I guess you could say Martin's claim is "supported."

Saul Montana couldn't contain his joy—and the ring couldn't contain him—when the Mexican cruiserweight contender stopped Tiwon Taylor in the first round of their August fight. It looks like Montana's been watching too many Naseem Hamed fights for his own good.

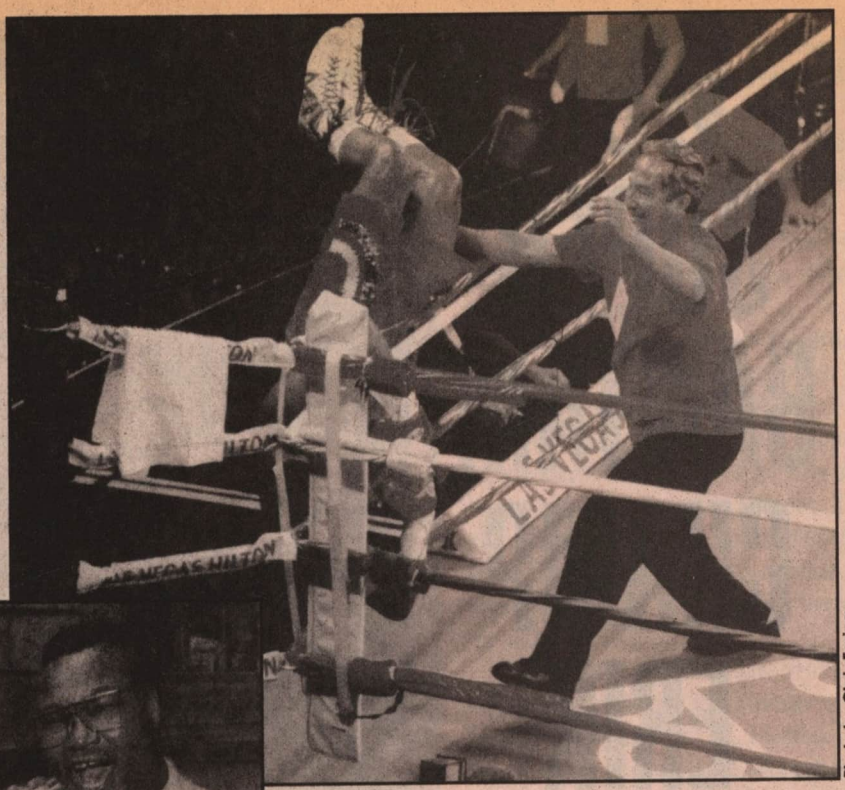


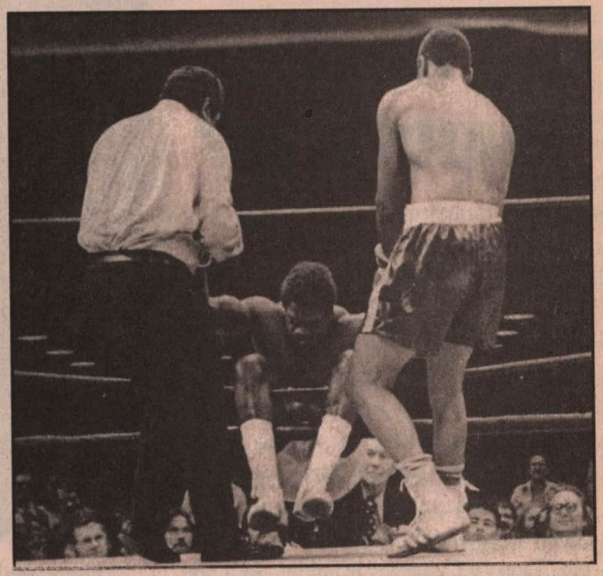
Photo by Chris Farina

Be glad we haven't figured out a way to include audio bites in THE RING. *Former heavyweight champ Larry Holmes grabbed a microphone and began serenading the crowd that had gathered for the press conference announcing his fight with George Foreman, giving people another good reason to call him "The Easton Assassin."*

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Photo by Joy Lush

"I'm sorry, Johnny, but your application to become the newest 'Baywatch Babe' has been denied." David Hasselhoff broke the bad news to Tapia at an August fight card in Las Vegas, but Don King was all smiles because it meant his chances of being accepted by the popular show just went up.



Make a wish: In this 1976 fight between top heavyweight contenders, Jimmy Young and referee Rudy Ortega had to take a moment to pull a fallen Ron Lyle back into the ring. The Denver powerhouse may as well have just stayed out there, though, as he went on to drop a unanimous decision to Young.

WBC SUPER BANTAM CHAMP ERIK MORALES

Is He Mexico's Next Superstar?

By Ivan Goldman

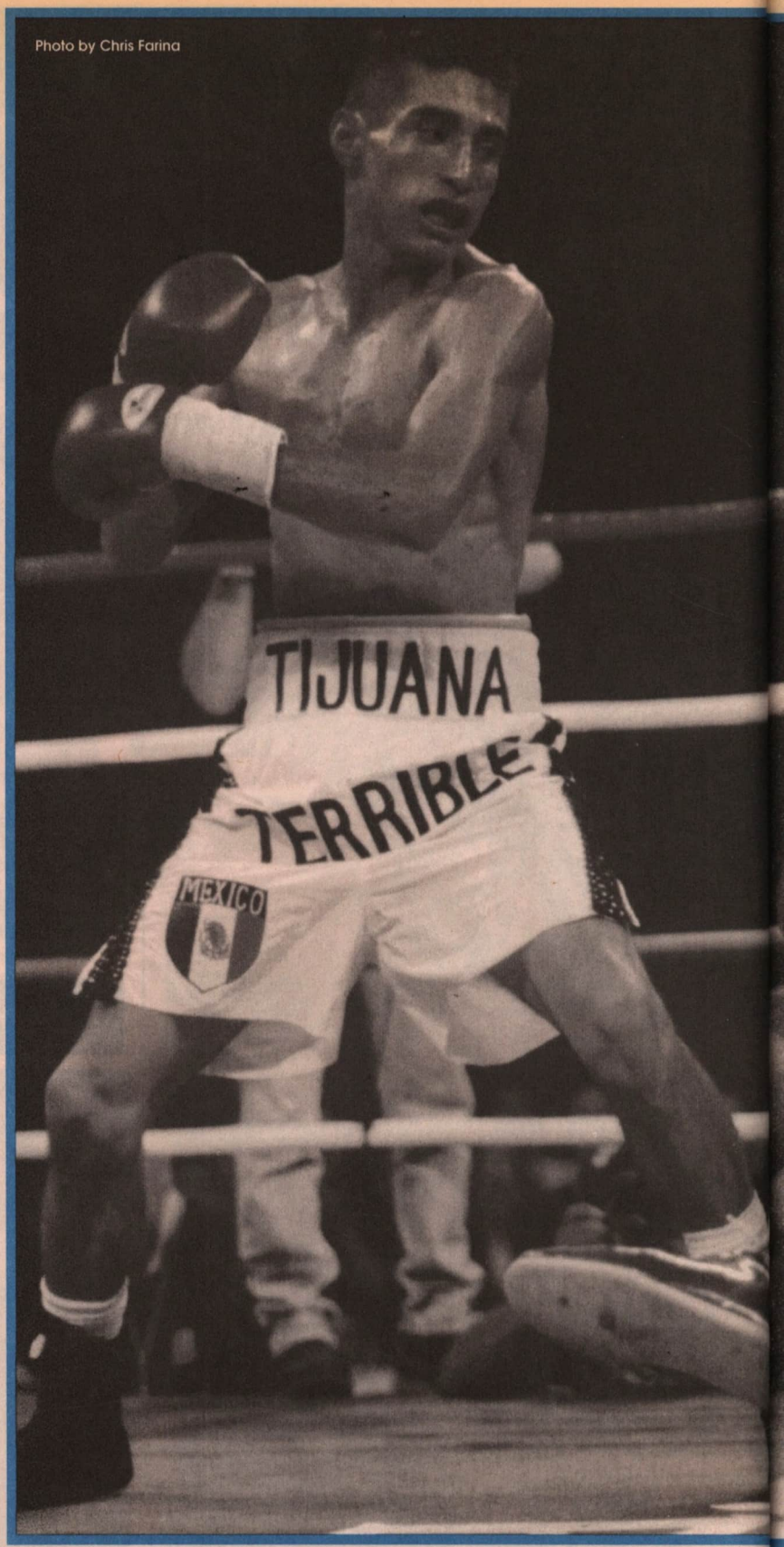
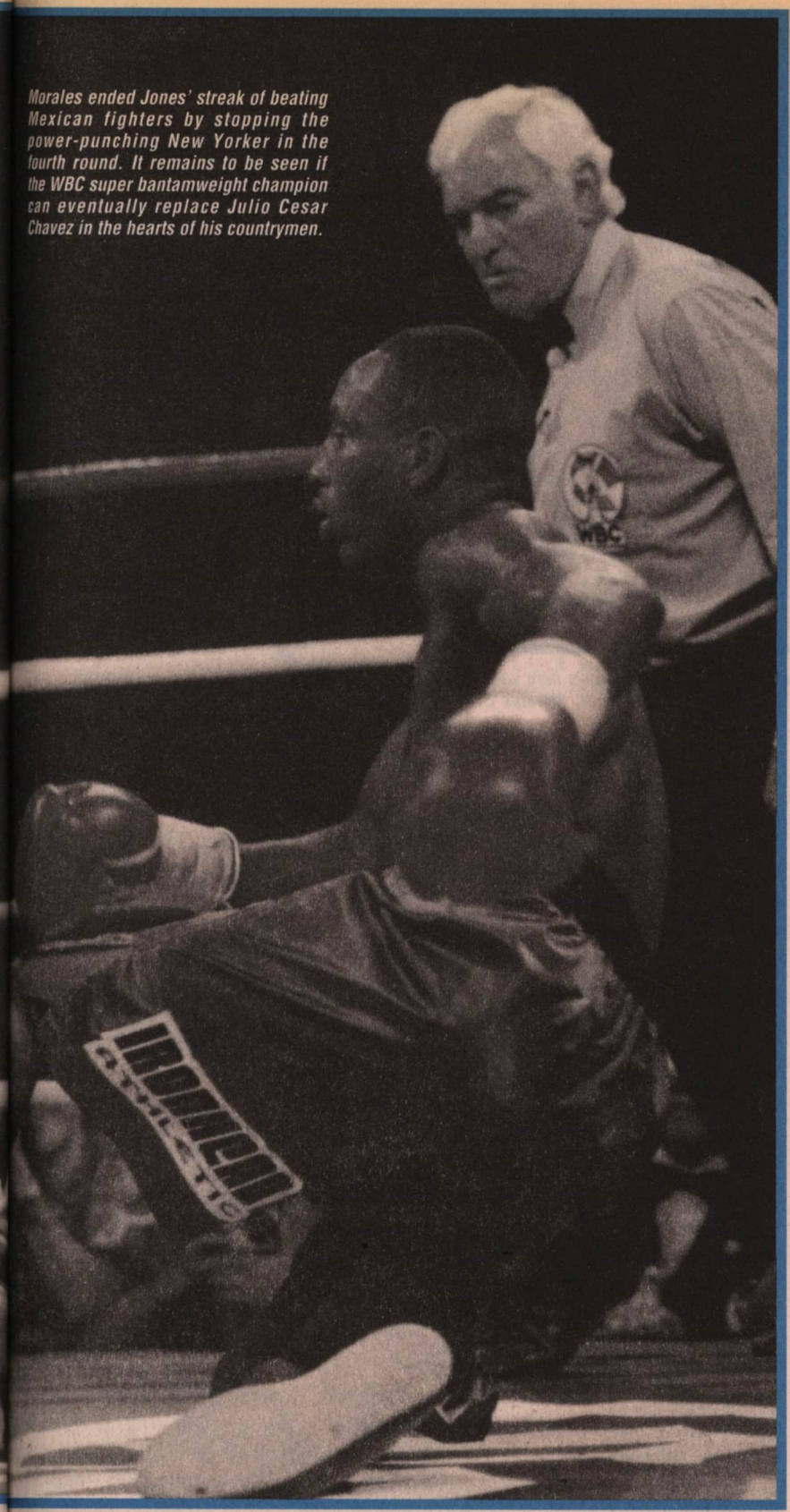


Photo by Chris Farina

In America, you don't step on Superman's cape. In Mexico, you don't speak ill of Julio Cesar Chavez. At the same time, after Chavez' second loss to American welterweight sensation Oscar De La Hoya, even the most die-hard Mexican fans recognize that their 36-year-old "Lion Of Culiacan" is fading. So if you whisper the question with the proper respect, it is now possible to wonder aloud: Who is the next Chavez? Has he even been born yet?

"There really isn't anyone close to Chavez as far as being popular," said Ricardo Jimenez, sports editor of *La Opinion*, the most influential Spanish-language newspaper in the United States. "But of all the young fighters, I think the one who comes closest is Erik Morales."

WBC super bantamweight champ Morales, by destroying Junior Jones in fou rounds, swelled Mexican hearts with prid



Morales ended Jones' streak of beating Mexican fighters by stopping the power-punching New Yorker in the fourth round. It remains to be seen if the WBC super bantamweight champion can eventually replace Julio Cesar Chavez in the hearts of his countrymen.

and earned enormous new prestige in his boxing-happy homeland. Jones was one of those American fighters, who, like Roger Mayweather before him, based much of his career on slaying Mexican dragons.

Before meeting Morales in Tijuana on September 12, Jones was 34-0 against Mexican fighters. Even worse, he had dared to stunningly defeat Marco Antonio Barrera twice. He remains to this day the only man who has ever beaten the machine-like Barrera. Jones even handled Barrera's trademark Mexican hook to the liver, coming over it with a swift, punishing American right hand, one of the best in the business.

"A lot of Mexicans thought Jones was invincible because he'd beaten Barrera twice," noted Jimenez.

So when in excess of 13,000 Mexican fans gathered in a bullring to watch the undefeated Morales defend their honor, not everyone was totally confident. Tijuana legal bookmakers stopped taking bets after the odds hit 2-1 favoring Morales. This could be interpreted to mean that they feared Jones' chances were better than the money-determined odds, so they avoided the wager entirely.

Before the fight, Jones probably believed his prediction that Morales would be easy pickings. After all, Morales held the title only because he'd taken it from Daniel Zaragoza, who, at 39, was clearly past his prime when Morales put him down for the count in the 11th round with a right hand to the liver.

"He's good, but he ain't no Barrera," Jones said.

Morales grew up in Tijuana's notorious Zona Norte barrio. With the fight against Jones set in his hometown, there was the possibility that this would place too much additional pressure on the 22-year-old Morales.

Round one was uneventful. In round two, Jones challenged the champion with lots of right hands, scoring repeatedly. But in round three, the lanky Morales moved closer and began taking over with well-placed combinations. In round four, Morales knocked Jones, 44-4 (26), down once with a swift series of lefts and rights and had him helpless when referee Larry O'Connell stepped in at 2:55.

Once again Morales, 31-0 (25), showed coolness under fire, an intelligent mix of punches that surprised his opponent, terrific balance, and a take-charge ring demeanor—all Chavez-like traits. Morales has been denigrated as a slow starter, but there are two sides to that coin. Although he doesn't do much early, he also seems to gain strength as the match goes on. This can take the heart out of a tiring opponent.

With boxing so close to the Mexican heart, it only stands to reason that Mexican

Photo by Chris Farina

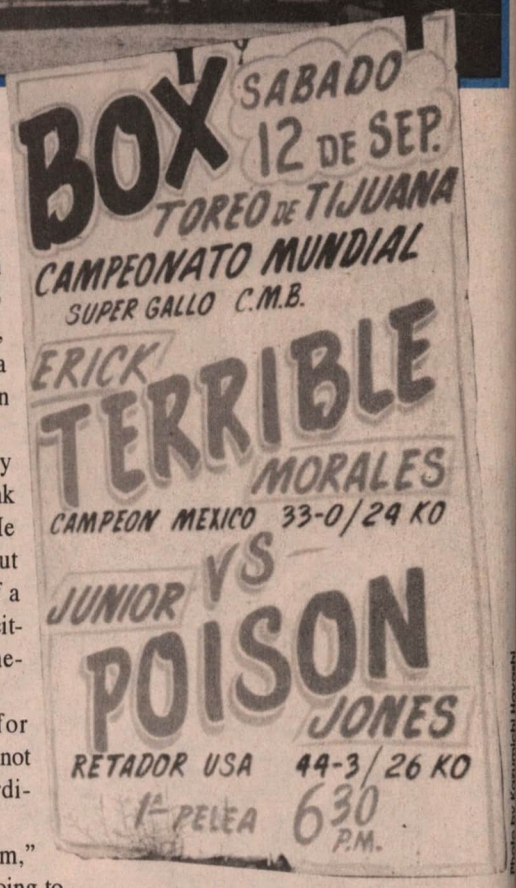


Photo by Kazunichi Hayashi

Over 13,000 Tijuana fans turned out to support Morales when their hometown hero went head-to-head with former world champion Jones at the local bullring. Now, Morales is trying to broaden his appeal to the rest of Mexico.

fans will gravitate to a new hero. Barrera got beaten, Ricardo Lopez appeared to grow old during his bout against WBA counterpart Rosendo Alvarez, and Miguel Angel Gonzalez unforgivably lost to De La Hoya. Could Morales inherit the unofficial crown of best pound-for-pound Mexican fighter?

"I think Erik is a work in progress," said Bruce Trampler, matchmaker for Bob Arum's Top Rank, which promotes Morales. "Erik is still a young fighter, much like Oscar De La Hoya was a year or so ago. He's a developing fighter. It's going to take time for him to acquire the experience to become a great fighter."

Trampler, a traditionalist, believes it's harder these days for anyone to lay claim to greatness because fighters just don't fight as often as they did in the old days.

"Look at Roberto Duran or Ray Robinson," said Trampler, referring to the busy schedules that helped Duran and Robinson gain stature. "Now fighters' careers are more compressed. Eric really is a terrific kid, but I don't like to throw the word 'great' around. He's a good young fighter."

Southern California matchmaker Jerry Bilderrain often looks to nearby Mexico for his fighters, and has been watching Morales develop from the beginning. He contends Morales has an insufficient defensive arsenal to become the next Chavez. Chavez, after all, mastered the ring like a magician. His footwork kept him in the right place at the right time.

"Morales is still very easily nailed," Bilderrain said. "I don't think he will become a great fighter. He doesn't have that fluid motion. But he's a determined guy with a hell of a following. No question he's an exciting fighter to watch. There's something in the air with him."

Tony Curtis, matchmaker for Forum Boxing, Barrera's promoter, not surprisingly calls Morales an "ordinary" fighter.

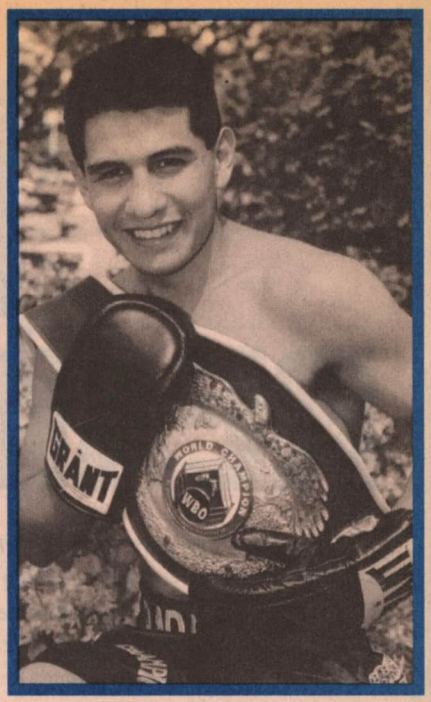
"I think Barrera could beat him," Curtis said. "I knew Morales was going to knock Jones out. So what? Jones is just gone. There is nothing spectacular about Morales. He's not quick. There's not enough movement. He's got a nice punch. But I'm not worried about him."

Despite Curtis' low opinion of Morales, Trampler contends that he has tried without success to put together a Morales-Barrera fight.

"Barrera is holding out for Naseem Hamed," Trampler said. "All the guys in that division are shooting at Hamed. Morales himself would like a shot at Hamed. In that weight class, he's the equivalent of De La Hoya. Everybody wants to go for the payday. Consequently, all the moths in the featherweight and junior featherweight division are drawn to his light."

The charismatic Hamed, a feather-

Jones and Morales compare fists at the weigh-in. "Poison" was very confident going into the bout, but as in his match with Kennedy McKinney, he faded quickly after a promising start.



Marco Antonio Barrera doesn't have the WBO belt anymore, but he's on the comeback trail and a showdown with fellow Mexican Morales would be a box office smash south of the border.

weight sensation who holds rock-star status in his native Britain, tantalizes other fighters with more than a fat purse. They all think they can beat his off-balance, unorthodox style. Among other Mexicans who would love to fight Naz and perhaps earn Chavez-like status are 122-pound WBA champ Enrique Sanchez and featherweight contender Juan Manuel Marquez. Marquez, trained by the respected Nacho Beristain, is viewed as a more formidable rival than Sanchez, whose career appears to be losing steam. Clearly, Barrera-Morales is a dream match that would do much to clear up the puzzle over who might fill Chavez' mighty Mexican shoes and make the most attractive Mexican challenger for "The Prince."

"Both fighters want it," said *La Opinion's* Jimenez. "I think it will happen. There is an animosity between them. Morales is a little more outspoken about Barrera, but Barrera has answered a few times, too."

Probably the greatest impediment to the Morales-Barrera match is ugly boxing politics. Barrera is managed by Ricardo Maldonado, a bitter rival of WBC President Jose Sulaiman. It would take a heap of convincing for Sulaiman to allow a Maldonado fighter to compete for one of his titles. Also, because Maldonado is a power in the less-regarded WBO, his fighters gravitate to its call. But as Curtis notes: "Money can change all of that."

Roberto Rajar, a columnist for the Spanish-language *Exito*, said that Morales is better known along the border than he is in Mexico City. But Jimenez notes that Team Morales has been working to change this. For his last several fights, Morales has trained in Mexico City, and he has been careful to nurture the Mexican media with news conferences. Moreover, just about anyone would agree that Mexicans pay more attention to the homegrown WBC than any other alphabet group. Because Morales holds its belt, he automatically has a leg up on the competition for prestige and attention in Mexico.

As no one expects Morales to remain at 122 pounds much longer, he could soon be seeking another title.

"I think he has the talent to stay around a while," said Jimenez, "and when he moves up to featherweight, that might be a better division for him in the long run. Other than Barrera, who's he got to fight in the 122-pound division?"

Perhaps a young fighter no one's paying any attention to yet. Perhaps *even* the next Chavez. ■

Ivan Goldman is THE RING'S West Coast correspondent.

Morales, his country's flag in hand, is the latest in a long line of fighters who hopes to be the next Chavez. He's also the latest in a long line of fighters who want the huge payday that comes with fighting undefeated British featherweight Naseem Hamed.

The RING® READERS' POLL

Every issue of THE RING is filled with the opinions of some of the most knowledgeable boxing writers in the world; but no matter how qualified or diverse the opinions we present, the voice of the fans frequently goes uncounted. In this special feature, we ask our readers to get their two cents in on a wide array of oft-debated subjects. Either clip these two pages out of the magazine or photocopy them, and send your responses to ***The Ring Readers' Poll, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.*** *The results will be printed in an upcoming issue.*

1. Who is the best fighter in the world today, pound-for-pound?

_____

2. Who is the greatest fighter of all-time, pound-for-pound?__

_____

3. Who is the greatest heavyweight of all-time?_____

_____

4. Who is the most entertaining fighter in the world today?___

_____

5. Who is the least entertaining fighter in the world today?___

_____

6. Who is the most entertaining fighter of all-time?_____

_____

7. Who is the least entertaining fighter of all-time?_____

_____

8. Who is the most overrated fighter in the world today?_____

_____

9. Who is the most underrated fighter in the world today?____

_____

10. Who is the most overrated fighter of all-time?_____

_____

11. Who is the most underrated fighter of all-time?_____

_____

(Questions 12 through 24 concern only ***active*** *fighters, judged regardless of weight class)*

12. Who is boxing's hardest puncher?_____

13. Who is boxing's most courageous fighter?_____

_____

14. Who has the best jab?_____

15. Who has the best right hand?_____

16. Who has the best left hook?_____

17. Who is the best bodypuncher?_____

18. Who is the best infighter?_____

19. Who has the best defense?_____

20. Who has the fastest hands?_____

21. Who has the best footwork?_____

22. Who has the best chin?_____

23. Who is the biggest overachiever?_____

24. Who is the biggest underachiever?_____

(Questions 25 through 38 concern only the best and worst ***current*** *non-participants)*

25. Who is the best promoter?_____

26. Who is the worst promoter?_____

27. Who is the best trainer?_____

28. Who is the worst trainer?_____

29. Who is the best referee?_____

30. Who is the worst referee?_____

31. Who is the best ring announcer?_____

32. Who is the worst ring announcer?_____

33. Who is the best blow-by-blow commentator?_____

_____

34. Who is the worst blow-by-blow commentator?_____

_____

35. Who is the best color commentator?_____

_____

36. Who is the worst color commentator?_____

_____

37. What is the best television network to watch boxing on?

_____

38. What is the worst television network to watch boxing on?

_____

39. What potential match would you most like to see?_____

_____

40. What is the most competitive division in boxing today?___

_____

41. What is the best venue in the world today at which to watch a fight?_____

42. Who is the active fighter you would most like to see retire?

_____

43. Are you in favor of women's boxing?_____

_____

44. Is Butterbean good or bad (or neither) for boxing?_____

_____

45. Are you in favor of headgear for pros?_____

_____

46. Should pros be allowed to box in the Olympics?_____

_____

47. Are you in favor of the standing eight-count?_____

_____

48. Are you in favor of a Federal boxing commission?_____

_____

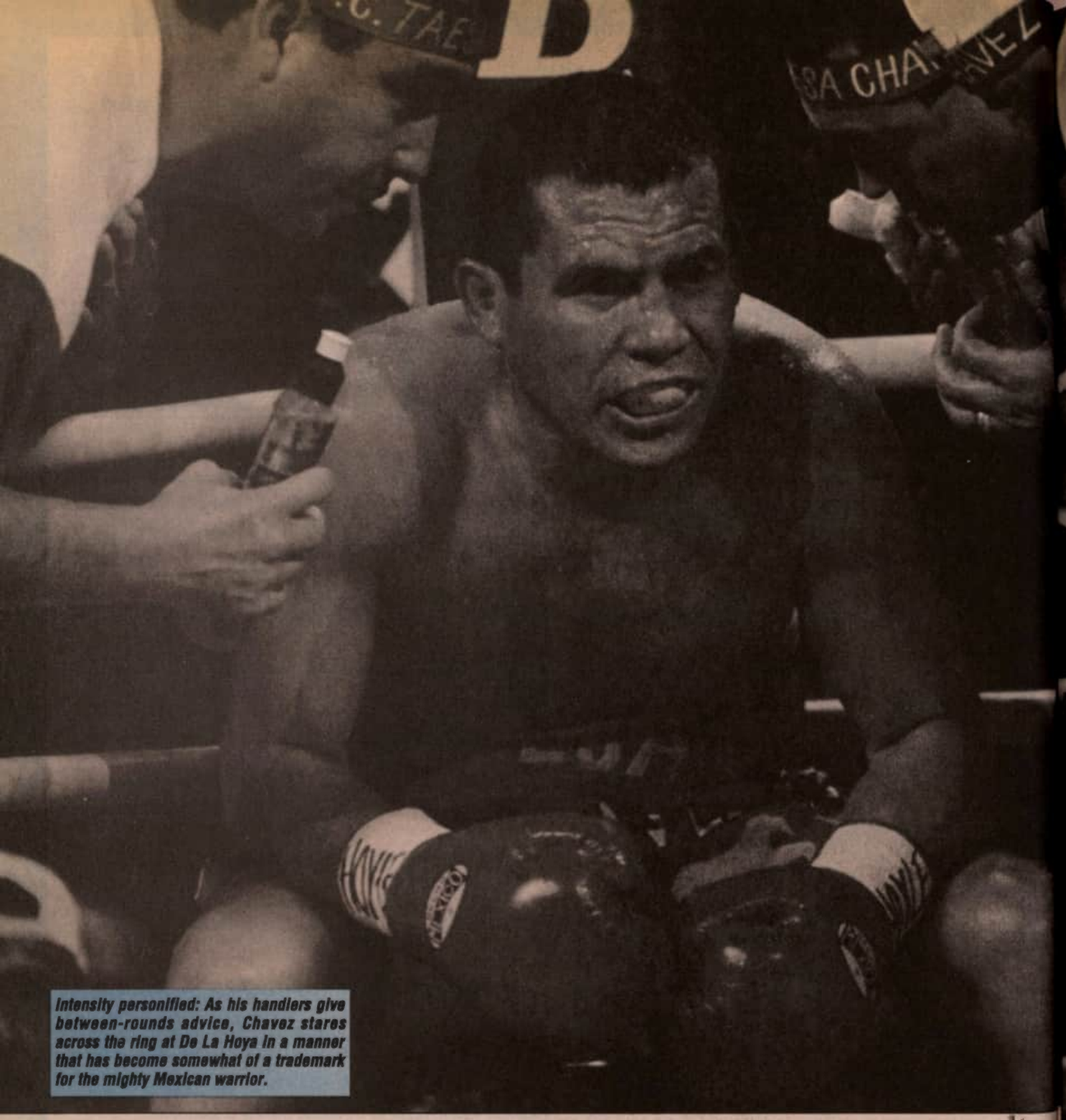
49. What rule would you most like to see changed?_____

_____

50. Who do you predict will be the number-one pound-for-pound fighter in five years?_____

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ

Still Competitive... To A Dangerous Degree



Intensity personified: As his handlers give between-rounds advice, Chavez stares across the ring at De La Hoya in a manner that has become somewhat of a trademark for the mighty Mexican warrior.

Photos by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

Chavez' machismo was evident when he went head-to-head with his younger, bigger, harder-hitting opponent. His come-to-fight attitude made for a much better fight than anticipated.

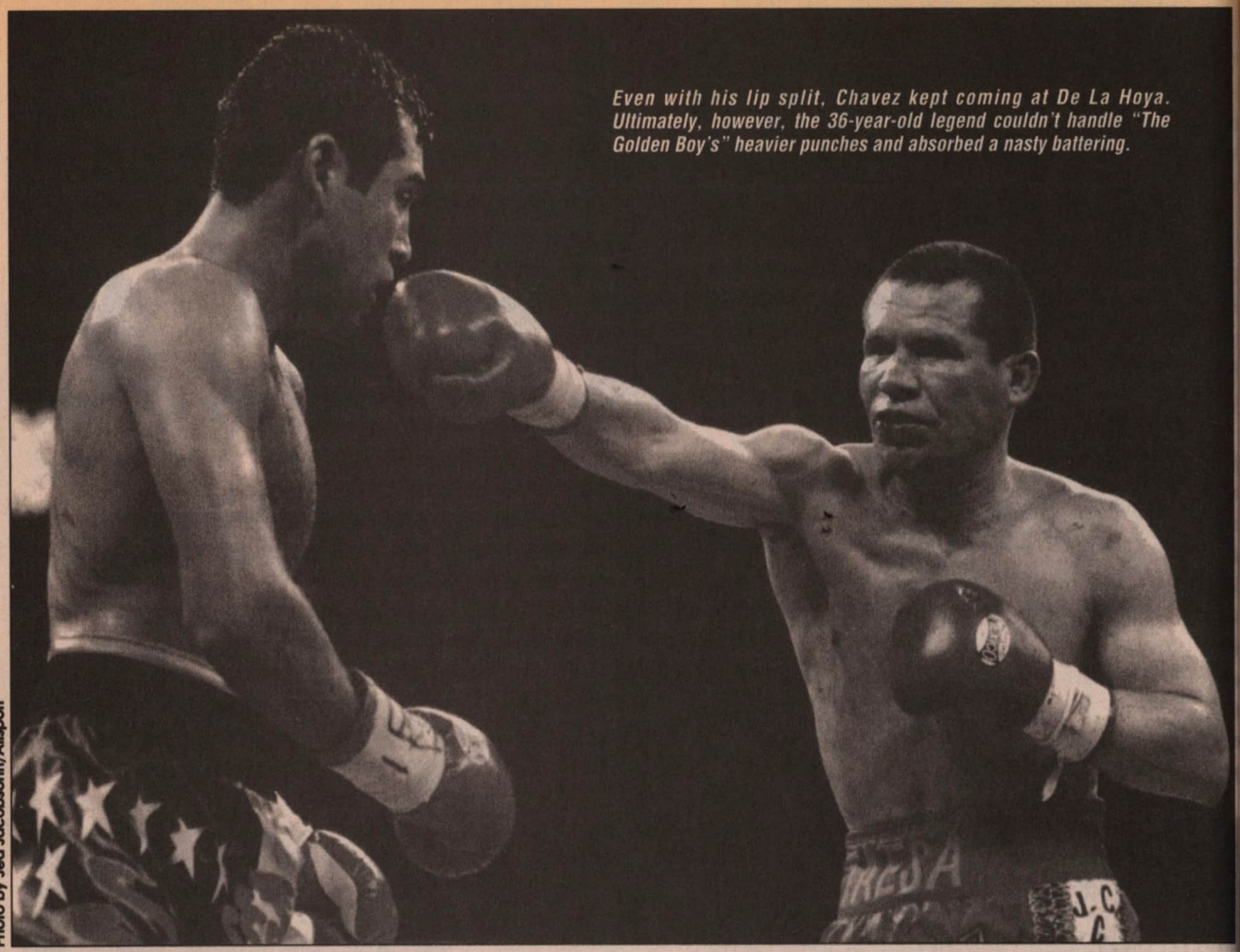
By Robert Mladinich

Although Julio Cesar Chavez showed much more competitive fire in his September 18 rematch with WBC welterweight champion Oscar De La Hoya than most people expected, it was widely assumed that he would take his reported $6-million payday and say *adios* to the game that has made him the most revered Mexican boxer in history. But that was probably just wishful thinking.

After the battered, beaten, and badly bloodied three-division former champion quit on his stool between the eighth and ninth rounds, a chorus of boos roared through the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. To his legion of devotees who had always accorded him the deference of a demigod, Chavez had done the unspeakable. Even though his face was swollen and discolored, his mouth a gurgling spigot of blood, many of his loyalists felt as if they had been betrayed.

What made Chavez' surrender so di agreeable to many among the crowd 17,115 was the fact that the well-muscl and finely conditioned Chavez had ma aged to jolt "The Golden Boy" on seve occasions and even bruise his handso face. The harsh code of the ring dicta that despite the punishment he absorbed, would have been better if Chavez had be carried out on a stretcher.

The man whom many people consid the greatest Mexican fighter of all-time h



Even with his lip split, Chavez kept coming at De La Hoya. Ultimately, however, the 36-year-old legend couldn't handle "The Golden Boy's" heavier punches and absorbed a nasty battering.

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

been a professional fighter for 18 of his 36 years and amassed an incredible record of 100-3-2 (83) against the most formidable fighters of his generation. The worship reserved for him in his native country is the type of idolatry usually accorded Mandela-like world leaders or religious icons. Although his once unadulterated machismo has been called into question on more than one occasion when he's been faced with the sight, smell, and taste of his own blood, he has never been lambasted or shunned by the maniacal zealots who revere him.

But the living legend who showed up for the fight with De La Hoya, 29-0 (24), turned into a living liar as soon as it was over. It had been very clear that Chavez had absorbed a brutal combination at the end of the eighth round. It was just as clear that upon returning to his corner he had relayed to his handlers at least three times that he did not want to continue. Even though they implored him to go on, it was widely reported in the press that it was the corner, not the fighter, who chose the path of least resistance by throwing in the towel.

"I want to say one thing, and I want to make it clear," insisted Chavez afterward. "I wanted to continue. My corner was the one that stopped it."

Those words were about as sincere as the now-famous words of President Clinton when he wagged his finger defiantly at America and said, "I did not have sex with that woman." While Chavez' version of the truth certainly does not jibe with the facts, his self-serving fib was not deemed to be an impeachable offense by the usually vulture-like boxing community who view any type of quitting as being akin to treason.

"Anybody that calls Julio a quitter on the basis of that performance is an idiot," said Ron Katz, matchmaker for Top Rank, who promoted the bout. "He came into the fight in great shape, stood toe-to-toe with one of the best fighters in the world, and fought the fight of his life. His lip was practically hanging off his face. He had a very serious injury, and did everything he could possibly do to try and win. What more could he do?"

Even though the faded Chavez had shown some sporadic flashes of brilliance, the personification of Mexican machismo was clearly no match for De La Hoya, who is not only becoming incredibly comfortable at 147 pounds, but is carving a bloody swathe toward the type of immortality that had always been projected for Chavez. While it is generally agreed upon that Chavez should pack it in, the lure of big-money fights at junior welterweight will prove to be too much of a temptation for the free-spending former champion. Unfortunately, he will still face a multitude of imposing challenges in the weight class where he reigned supreme for many years.

Although Chavez has been insisting for quite some time that his retirement from the ring is imminent, it is glaringly apparent that he is going nowhere fast. Besides being arrested this past June for income tax evasion, he recently went through a costly divorce, and even admitted under oath during Don King's federal fraud trial that he was constantly borrowing money from the promoter against future purses. Although

Chavez insists that his finances are in order, it is a safe assumption that nothing could be further from the truth. Because he has never had any other livelihood besides boxing during his adult life, and has no known employable skills to fall back on, it is an even safer assumption that he will be fighting well past the millennium. Only days after the loss to De La Hoya, Chavez lobbied WBC President Jose Sulaiman for a shot at the winner of the Kostya Tszyu-Miguel Angel Gonzalez clash for the vacant WBC super lightweight title.

While Chavez doesn't have the firepower to compete with the cream of the welterweights, in a detrimental twist of fate, he is probably capable of being competitive with the best of the junior welters. But being competitive is not the same as winning, and therein lies a most significant dilemma for a fighter in the twilight of his career. Moreover, Chavez' penchant for suffering significant facial damage in most of his recent fights is something practically guaranteed to continue as he plugs on without the reflexes that used to enable him to slip and block punches.

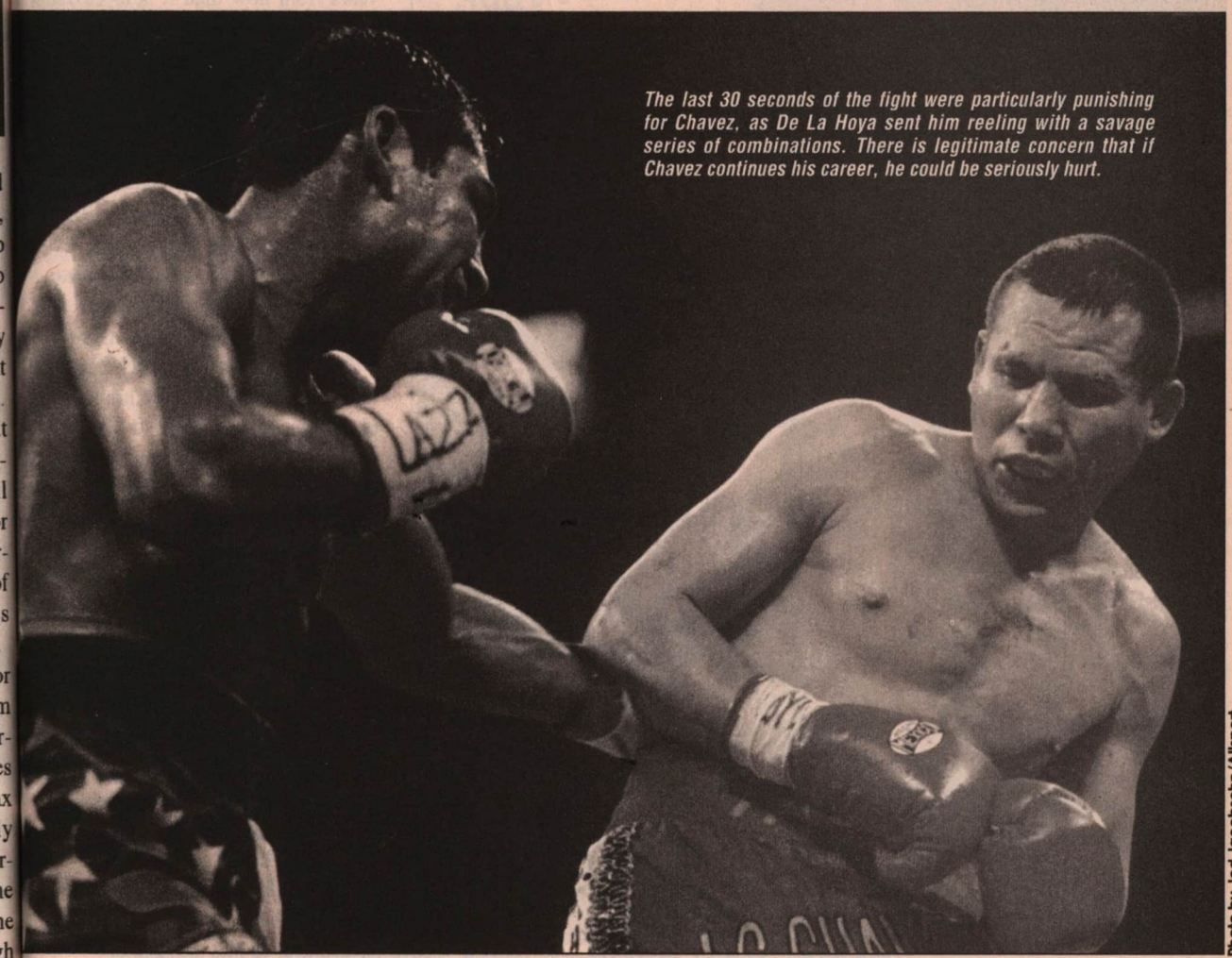
Another source of debate is whether the Hall of Fame legacy of Chavez will lose its luster if he continues to forge ahead while plainly past his prime. One need not look beyond Roberto Duran to see just how far one can fall when they refuse to heed nature's warnings.

"Julio has reached the end of the line," said Harold Lederman, HBO's unofficial official. "The sad thing is he will probably continue against the top guys out there. He could still beat a lot of mediocre 140-pounders, but none of the top guys at 147. And he doesn't have the reflexes to beat junior welterweights like Vince Phillips or Kostya Tszyu. And it would be very sad to see him become a steppingstone for up-and-coming guys like Zab Judah."

Still, Lederman is certain that Chavez will stay in the game, chasing seven-figure paydays and, to some degree at least, tricking himself with internal images of the past.

"The type of fan that worships him will always remember the old days," said Lederman. "And so will Julio. Money has probably become such a central issue that it is clouding his thinking. He doesn't see fighting on as being detrimental to his health, but others do. Even though he was well past his prime, he went to the mountains of Breckinridge, Colorado, to train for De La Hoya. Nobody gave him a chance of winning, but he thought he could do it. Some people accused him of quitting, but that's nonsense. It was nothing like Duran and the 'No Mas' fight. Duran could have gone on, while Julio tried everything to win and none of it worked. He couldn't go on, and was smart enough to realize it.

"Julio will always have enough appeal to get big fights, but he just doesn't need it anymore. He's closer to 40 now than he is to 30. He must realize that the human body can only absorb so much punishment. After a while it is not humanly possible to absorb any more."



The last 30 seconds of the fight were particularly punishing for Chavez, as De La Hoya sent him reeling with a savage series of combinations. There is legitimate concern that if Chavez continues his career, he could be seriously hurt.

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

Lou DiBella, HBO Sports vice president, was sitting one row behind Chavez' corner, and claims anyone who perceived him to be a quitter is a fool.

"He not only fought his best fight in years, he gave 110 percent for one last time," DiBella said. "Julio was beaten to a pulp, spitting blood from the first round on. A champion like that doesn't have to prove to the jerks out there that he is brave.

"If he decides to go on, I hope he tries one more big fight at 140 pounds and quits. I would really hate to see him become another Duran. I think he is probably smart enough to walk away, but who knows? If Julio is fighting for financial reasons, I can understand that. But he doesn't have to fight to enhance his legacy. Whatever happens in the future, his legacy is intact."

Many boxing insiders foresee a sad ending to what once was perceived as a happy rags-to-riches boxing saga. Chavez was at his peak from 1985 to '90, but that was almost 10 years ago. In the last three years he has taken a lot of headshots. Eventually, they will catch up to him.

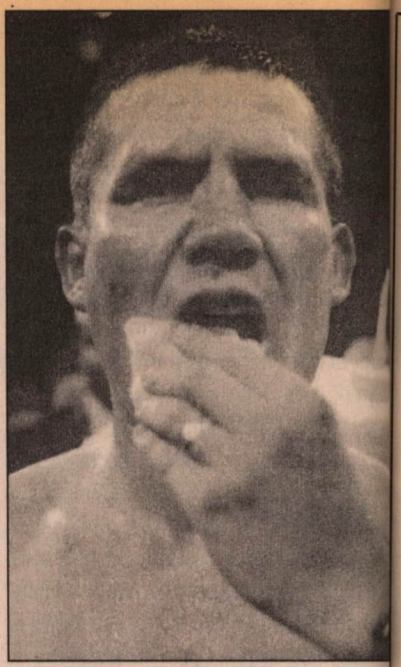
The Chavez we saw against De La Hoya wasn't anything near the Chavez we saw against Edwin Rosario in '87. But regardless of what happens in the future, people will always remember the past. Sugar Ray Robinson lost his last fight to Joey Archer at age 44, but most people remember his career as a whole. He didn't lose his greatness, even though he fought on way beyond when he was truly great.

About the only sure thing in Chavez' future right now is that he's well beyond being at a crossroads in his career. If anything, he is in the cross hairs. Sadly, it is much easier to imagine him fighting five years from now than it is to envision hi enjoying a happy retirement. Lederma says he will always remember Chave leaning forward on his stool, eagerly wai ing for the bell to signify the beginning the next round.

"It really put a punctuation mark on h killer instinct," he explained. "Julio reall made his mark in history. He's the be fighter to ever come out of Mexico, bett than Miguel Canto, better than Ruben O vares."

That said, one can only hope Chave won't be prodded on by hordes of syc phants who are as blind to his weakness as he is himself. It is one thing to lose your money, it is another to have it and unable to count it. There would be greater tragedy than for Chavez to have legacy intact, but be unable to revel in t memories. For a man who brought tw decades of pride and honor to an enti nation and held his countrymen in a colle tive psyche that bordered on euphoria, th would be the cruelest blow of all. After said DiBella, "He's not only one of t best fighters to ever come out of Mexic he's one of the best fighters to ever co out of anywhere."

Robert Mladinich is a freelance wri based in New York City and a regul contributor to this magazine.



To save face, Chavez insisted that it was hi corner who stopped the fight. But it was clea to all who watched the bout that it was th Mexican icon who made the decision to qui on his stool after the eighth round.

Chavez' pride is such that he didn't even want to look at De La Hoya's face on the fight poster hanging on the wall at his training camp. Therefore, he covered The Golden Boy's face with white paper.

Photo by Brian Bach/Allsport

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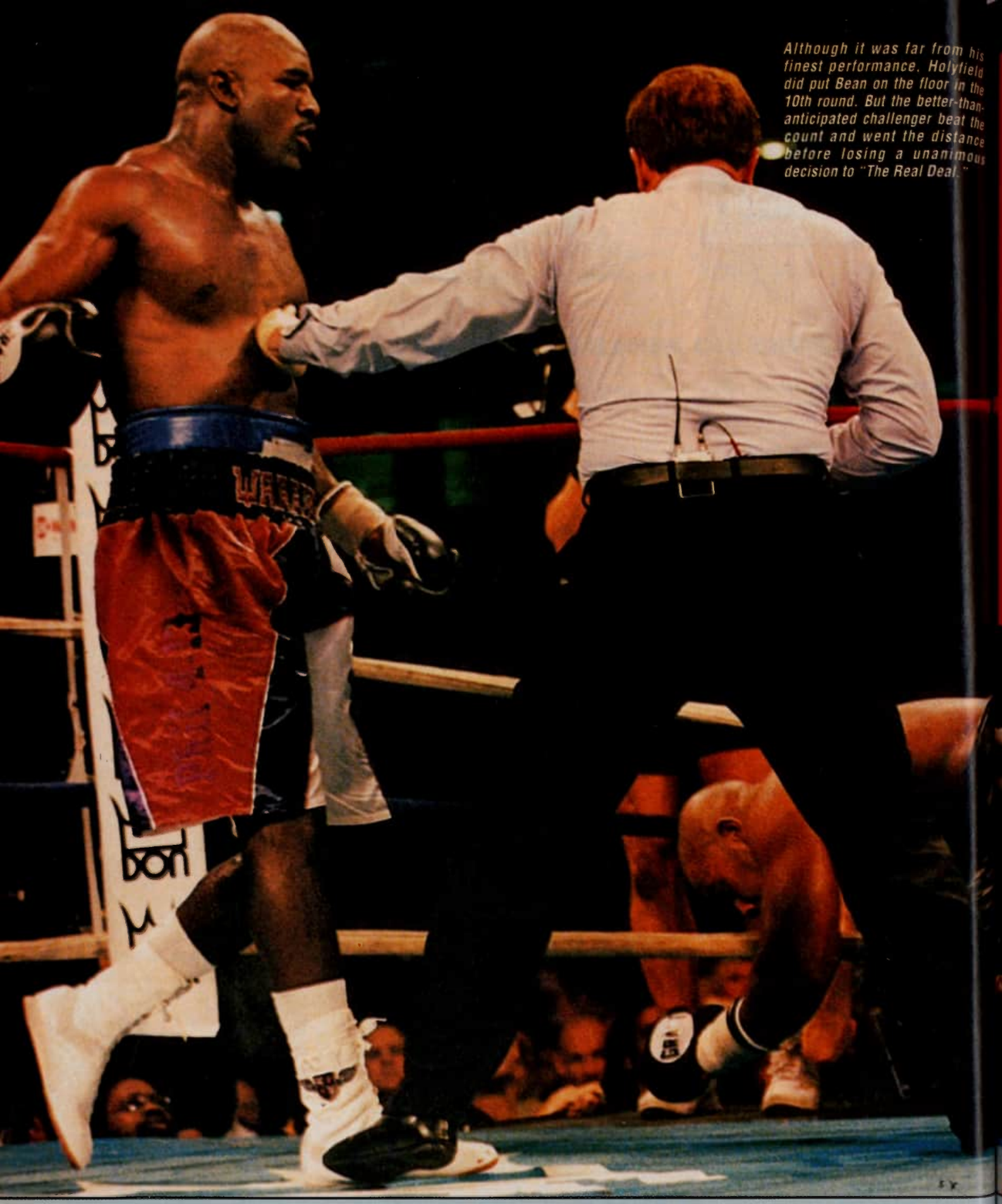


Although it was far from his finest performance, Holyfield did put Bean on the floor in the 10th round. But the better-than-anticipated challenger beat the count and went the distance before losing a unanimous decision to "The Real Deal."

Ugly Showing In The Holyland

VAUGHN BEAN CAN'T DETHRONE EVANDER... BUT HE DOES BEAT THE SPREAD

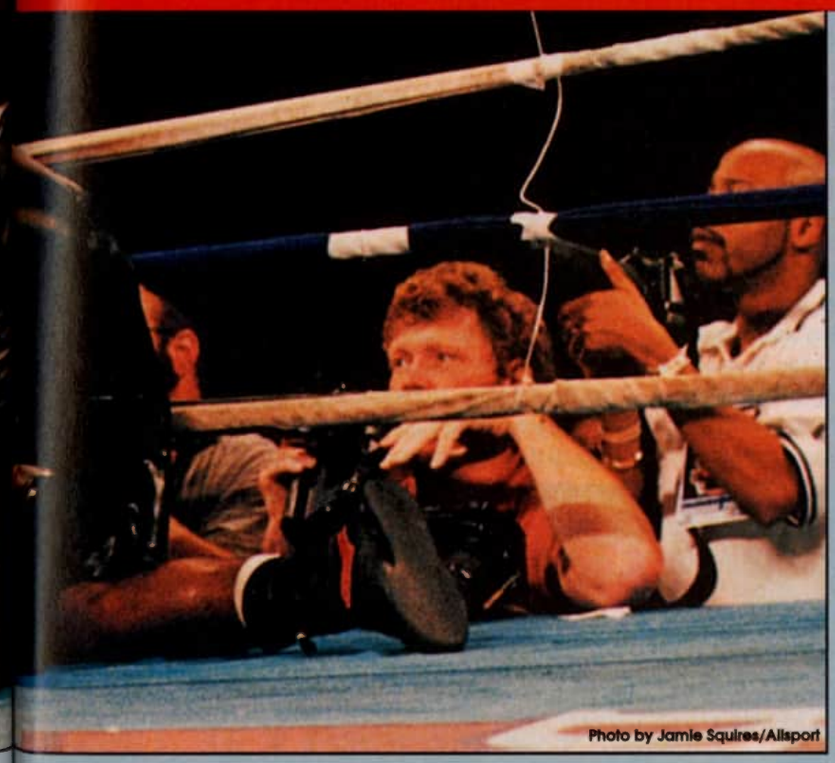


Photo by Jamie Squires/Allsport

By D.E. Thomas

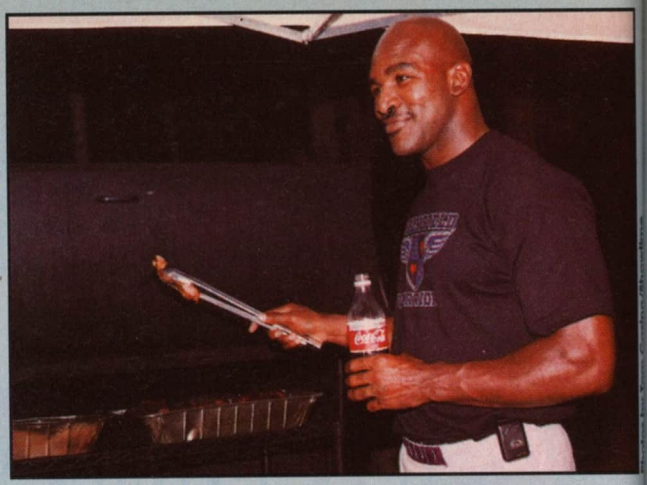
At first glance, Evander Holyfield vs. Vaughn Bean had more in common with a collegiate football homecoming game than a heavyweight championship prize fight. There were the champion's public workouts, which seemed like pep rallies, with fans flocking for a glimpse or an autograph. There was the electric atmosphere of a crowd filling the Georgia Dome to its 41,357 capacity on a balmy late-September evening, almost all the enthusiastic patrons turning out to cheer on their hero, Holyfield. Balloons waited in the rafters, ready to drop at the announcement of a victory by the hometown favorite. There was even a homecoming queen, Christy Martin, who fought on the undercard.

Bean was cast as the perfect homecoming opponent, a foil for the champion to dominate to appease the masses. The IBF's number-one contender was widely dismissed going into the bout as an undeserving challenger who had gained his ranking through political shenanigans. He elicited so little respect that the match was given to the viewing public free of charge by Showtime, and it was Bean's lack of box-office appeal that drove the decision to take the match to Holyfield Country, where it would be an event, rather than to Las Vegas or Atlantic City, which showed little interest. Pundits joked that Holyfield would have more problems with Butterbean, or even Mr. Bean, the eccentric English comic.

Apparently, Bean doesn't watch much college football. The native of Chicago, by way of Philadelphia, put up a determined effort and fought a competitive, if somewhat ugly, fight, before dropping a unanimous 12-round decision.

More significant than the fight, however, was the event. Contested before the largest live audience to witness a heavyweight title fight since the Muhammad Ali-Leon Spinks rematch in the Louisiana Superdome 20 years earlier, Holyfield and Bean managed to draw an audience as sizable as one would expect at a Final Four basketball championship for a match that held no mystique for hardened fight fans. Without an attractive matchup to sell, Holyfield sold himself, and Atlanta was buying. Ticket-holders didn't expect Ali-Frazier, although Smokin' Joe was there, working Bean's corner. They just came to show their respect for all Holyfield has accomplished. It was the champ's first outing at home since his two victories over Mike Tyson, and the city hadn't forgotten.

While promoter Don King kept a low profile, staying out of town most of the week leading up to fight night, Holyfield



Part of the reason for Holyfield's subpar showing could have been the time and energy he expended promoting the fight with events such as a public workout (above left) in Atlanta and a barbecue he hosted at his mansion for the media (above right).

was everywhere. He threw out the first pitch at an Atlanta Braves game. He waved the flag to start a race at Atlanta Motor Speedway. He hosted a barbecue for the media at his palatial estate. He spoke to youth groups. If the circus had been in town, he surely would have been honorary ringmaster.

Tickets were scaled down, priced from $25 in the upper deck to $500 ringside, because Holyfield wanted a full house more than he wanted a fat payday. He fought for a $3-million guarantee, but bought into the promotion and half-joked that he stood to lose money if the public didn't respond. He need not have worried. The crowd shattered the state record of approximately 12,000 set in his last home title fight, a 1991 knockout of Bert Cooper in the now-demolished Omni.

The event's star power underlined its importance to the community, attracting celebrities such as actors Denzel Washington and Wesley Snipes, comedian Robert Townsend, rapper Queen Latifah, and attorney Johnny Cochrane, as well as civic and business leaders that included

CHEF HOLYFIELD BARELY BAKES BEAN

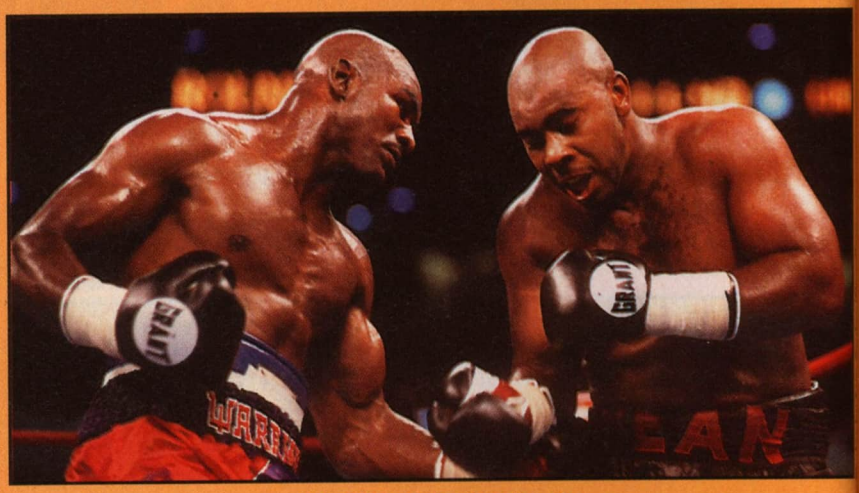
Making the third defense of the WBA crown he captured with his first win over Mike Tyson and the first defense of the IBF title he regained from Michael Moorer, Evander Holyfield won a harder-than-expected unanimous 12-round decision over Vaughn Bean. While better than anticipated, the fight was something of an eyesore, characterized more by mauling than clean punching.

Holyfield noticed that Bean, 231, weighed in nearly 20 pounds more than he had for the Michael Moorer fight, and wasted no time in testing the stocky challenger's midriff with thudding shots soon after the opening bell. Bean circled cautiously to his left and seemed content to tie the champion up any time Holyfield tried to mount an offense. Holyfield raked him with hooks and uppercuts inside, but Bean's tight defense kept him out of serious trouble.

Bean found a weapon in the second round that would keep him in the hunt all night when he caught Holyfield with a short, looping right while falling inside. When Holyfield tried to counter with the same shots that seemed to hit Tyson square every time, he found Bean either clinging to his chest or leaning away at an awkward angle.

Holyfield controlled the early action, and seemed on his way to the easy knockout most expected as he had his way through the first four rounds. He landed with blistering hooks and right counters in the third and fourth, shaking "Shake-n-Bake" briefly, but the challenger proved to have a solid enough chin to weather Holyfield's thunder.

Bean became bold starting in the sixth, when he began to press the issue more and follow his chopping right with uppercuts and hooks. Holyfield began to look tired as the middle rounds wore on, his punch rate falling as Bean began to smother him on the inside and wrestle him around the ring. The defending



Holyfield tests Bean's body early

such influential people as the CEO of the Coca-Cola, which is based in Atlanta. Henry Akinwande, who is awaiting a second attempt to contest his mandatory WBA challenge of Holyfield before the end of the year, wasn't the only athlete in attendance. A few members of the Atlanta Hawks (the Braves were out of town) and even WCW wrestling champion Bill Goldberg were visible.

To Holyfield, fighting Bean became more than just an unwanted mandatory defense. It became a referendum on his hometown popularity, and he won by a landslide.

"When I came out of my dressing room, I wasn't shocked, but I was happy," Holyfield said. "I dedicate this fight to the people of Atlanta. The fight was my gift to Atlanta, and I feel my gift [from the city] was the 40,000 who showed up to support me."

With so many of his hometown fans to cheer him on, Holyfield had every reason to want to show his best stuff against

(Continued on page 57)

Photo by Jay Lash

At the end of the day, The Real Deal was still the WBA/IBF heavyweight champion, and Don King still had his most valuable bargaining chip in the ongoing debate over who will promote the much anticipated Holyfield-Lennox Lewis unification match.

champion fought in spurts, but couldn't seem to sustain his attack as Bean continued to plug away.

Two-thirds of the way through the fight, one had to wonder if Holyfield would continue to fade or if he would find the willpower to halt the growing momentum of his unheralded challenger.

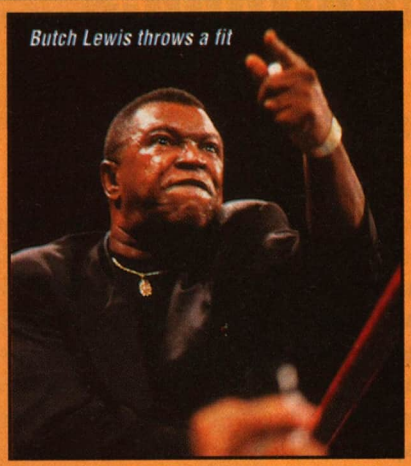
Holyfield closed the ninth with a fierce barrage, and Bean's hopes fell for good in the 10th, when he charged into Holyfield after taking a crashing hook to the chin. Holyfield directed the off-balance challenger into the ropes and blasted him with a right uppercut just as referee Brian Garry (USA) stepped in with the apparent intention of calling a break. The flush shot sent Bean to the canvas in a heap. Garry ruled it a clean knockdown, and began counting. Bean lay motionless for a few seconds, then made his way to his feet by the count of seven.

Away from the action, Bean's promoter, Butch Lewis, crawled up on the ring apron and began hysterically berating Holyfield for the perceived foul. Lewis seemed on the verge of stepping through the ropes when he was restrained by Bean's cornermen.

"He was trying to distract me," Holyfield said. "Butch is a clever guy. He got up and hollered and hollered and hollered. It did distract me. I'm surprised the referee didn't tell him to sit back down."

Holyfield tried to finish the job, but Bean survived the round. He made it through the 11th, and put together a minor rally in the final round as Holyfield faded. It wasn't a winning performance, but it was an effort that can only raise Bean's stock in defeat.

"I thought I would get him," Holyfield said. "He fought a cautious fight, but he fought a smart fight. He did the things that allowed him to go 12 rounds."



Butch Lewis throws a fit

The 217-pound "Real Deal" improved to 36-3 (25), going the distance for the first time since his '95 decision over Ray Mercer. Bean fell to 31-2 (25), losing for the first time since dropping a narrow decision to Michael Moorer 18 months earlier in his first try at a world belt. Judges Al Devito and Leroy Brown, both from New Jersey, scored it 117-110, with Nevada's Dwayne Ford scoring 116-111. THE RING also favored Holyfield, 116-112.

Lewis, who gained Bean the mandatory challenger's spot by protesting the decision loss to Moorer, was up to his old tricks again. After verbally assaulting the referee throughout the fight and confronting him in the ring afterward, he promised to protest. Garry beat him to the punch, filing his own protest of the promoter's behavior with the IBF a few days after the fight.

"We'll be back, Jack," Lewis asserted.

Boxing fans can only hope he's wrong.

(9-19-98)

—DET

Sugar Shane MOSLEY

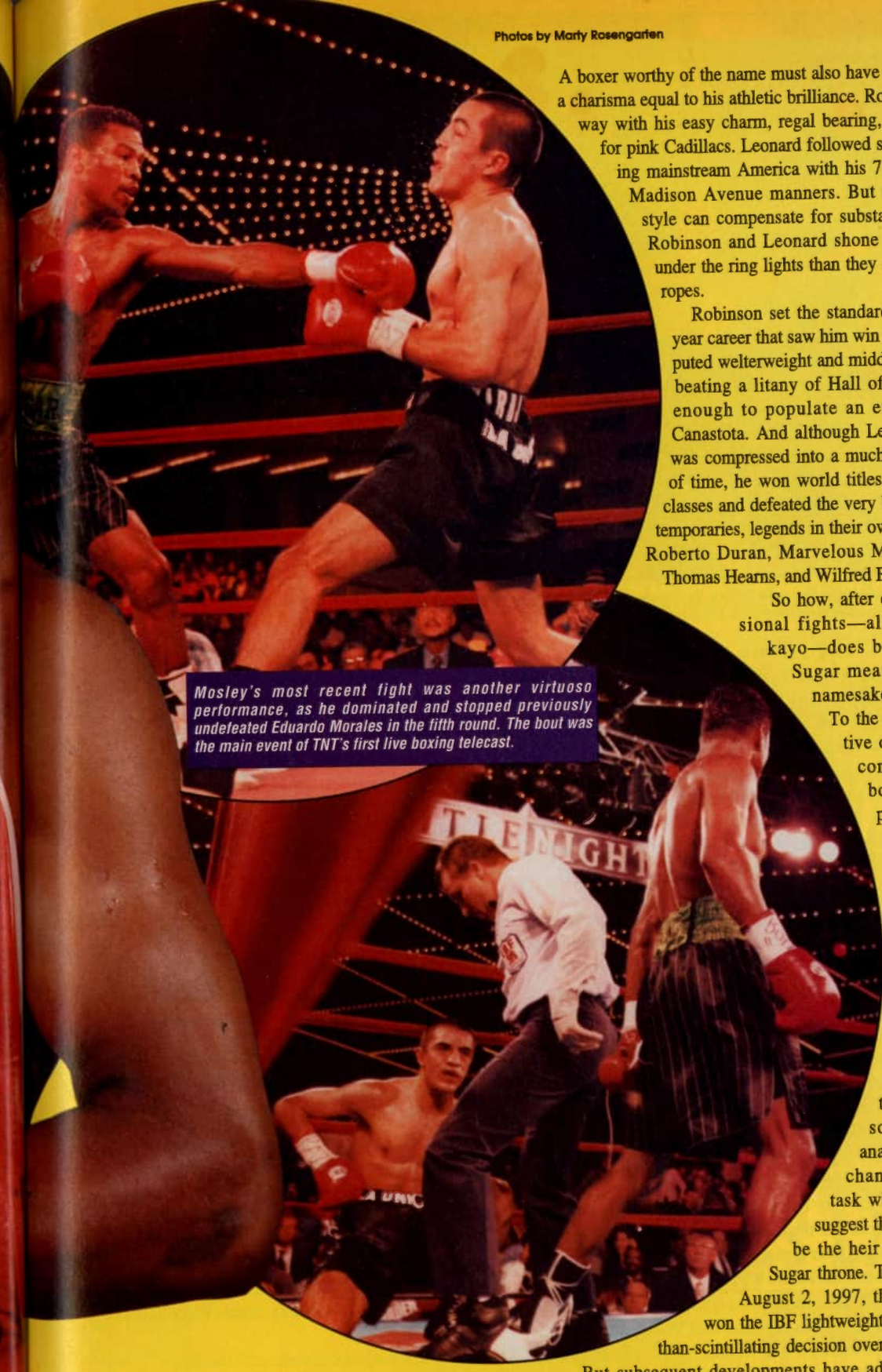
The Sweet Tradition Continues ...

By Nigel Collins

There will never be another Sugar Ray Robinson. Let's get that settled from the start. Like the *Mona Lisa* or *Moby Dick*, he is suigeneris, a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. And like all great works of art, the original Sugar Ray has become an inspiration for others, the pugilistic paradigm by which all who follow in his wake are measured. To date, only one boxer, Ray Leonard, has been able to don the Sugar-mantle without being accused of sacrilege. But now comes another worthy of consideration, a budding superstar whose gifts are such that comparisons with Robinson and Leonard are not totally amiss. And even if history eventually proves Sugar Shane Mosley unequal to the task of carrying on the Sweet Science's sweetest tradition, he is for now, at least, the best candidate for Sugarization since Leonard left the stage.

Being a great fighter does not, in and of itself, a Sugar make. A particular aesthetic quality is essential, a quality that juxtaposes poetic grace and chilling violence in a way that allows us to understand how closely beauty and brutality are intertwined when a true master is applying the strokes. Artist as executioner, if you will, a fighter who elevates the craft of destruction to a level beyond the mere bludgeoning of one human being by another.

Photos by Marty Rosengarten



Mosley's most recent fight was another virtuoso performance, as he dominated and stopped previously undefeated Eduardo Morales in the fifth round. The bout was the main event of TNT's first live boxing telecast.

A boxer worthy of the name must also have a certain flair, a charisma equal to his athletic brilliance. Robinson led the way with his easy charm, regal bearing, and penchant for pink Cadillacs. Leonard followed suit, mesmerizing mainstream America with his 7-Up smile and Madison Avenue manners. But no amount of style can compensate for substance, and both Robinson and Leonard shone even brighter under the ring lights than they did outside the ropes.

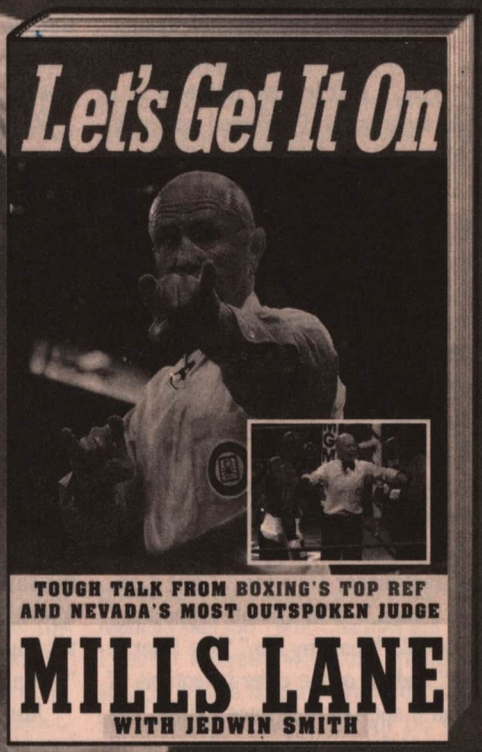
Robinson set the standard during a 25-year career that saw him win both the undisputed welterweight and middleweight titles, beating a litany of Hall of Famers large enough to populate an entire wing in Canastota. And although Leonard's career was compressed into a much shorter period of time, he won world titles in five weight classes and defeated the very best of his contemporaries, legends in their own right such as Roberto Duran, Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearns, and Wilfred Benitez.

So how, after only 29 professional fights—all wins, 27 by kayo—does boxing's latest Sugar measure up to his namesakes of the past? To the most conservative of purists, such comparisons are both odious and premature, and there's something to be said for that point of view. But like it or not, we live in an age when tradition is most valued when applicable to the present. Even so, HBO boxing analyst Larry Merchant was taken to task when he dared to suggest that Mosley might be the heir apparent to the Sugar throne. That was back on August 2, 1997, the night Mosley won the IBF lightweight title with a less-than-scintillating decision over Phillip Holiday. But subsequent developments have added credence to Merchant's claim.

Fighting Hard, Fighting Clean

Boxing's Top Ref Has His Say

With his distinctive bald head, bow tie, and signature phrase –"Let's get it on!"– Mills Lane is the most colorful and best known referee in professional boxing, with almost 100 world championship bouts under his belt. A former Marine and an ex-professional boxer himself, Lane is also a mediator beyond the boxing ring–as a Nevada district court judge nicknamed "Maximum Mills" for his stiff penalties, and now as the arbiter of justice on his own syndicated TV show. In *Let's Get It On*, Lane provides an inside-the-ropes look at the outrageous personalities and often scandalous behavior–as well as the courage and integrity– that have defined boxing in our time.



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FORMER LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

RAY "WINDMILL" WHITE:

"ALL THE PEOPLE WANTED TO WATCH THE WEIRDO FIGHT"

By Pete Ehrmann

The most basic and effective combination punch in boxing is the left-right, a stiff left jab followed by a straight right cross. Performed correctly, the old one-two, as it has been called since John L. Sullivan was a gleam in every bartender's eye, can stop an opponent in his tracks.

In an eight-year ring career during which he became a contender for the light heavyweight title, Ray White often relied on a one-two combination that didn't start with a left jab.

"It may sound silly," he said once, "but every time I stick out my tongue at an opponent, I manage to land a good right."

That wasn't the half of it. Throw in "The Hamburger Grinder," "The Centrifuge Punch," "The Double Uppercut," "The Double-Whammy Jab," "The Rooster Punch," and all of the other inventions of the man a sportswriter once called "the Meadowlark Lemon of boxing," and you'll get an idea why Scrapiron Johnson wanted very badly to kill White when they fought on November 28, 1967.

Until that bout, White was just another California journeyman, a full-time carpenter pursuing a middling sideline career as a light heavyweight scuffler. A native of Monroe, Louisiana, White had three bouts (losing two) before entering the Navy in 1960, and decided upon mustering out six years later to take up the sport again.

He was 8-5-1 when he got the call to fight Johnson in San Diego. White had never fought a 10-rounder before, while Johnson had been in there with top heavyweight contenders Jerry Quarry, Eddie Machen, and, just the previous May, the second-ranked heavyweight in the world.

Joe Frazier had knocked out all but one of his previous 16 opponents when he tangled with Johnson in Los Angeles. "One of the toughest I've fought," wheezed the future champion after Johnson took him the full distance in a fight that had the 9,000-plus at the Olympic Auditorium tossing money in the ring and chanting "Scrapiron, Scrapiron!" when it ended.

Just 5'9" tall, the fire-pluggish Johnson outweighed the 6'4", 187-pound White by 30 pounds, and for the first five rounds of the Mutt-'n-Jeff match did pretty much as he pleased against him. Now 60 years old and living in Oak View, California, White recalls that night vividly, for it was then that he experienced the epiphany that reshaped his career.

"I was being beat up by someone who was like one of the top fighters in the world, and had really given Joe Frazier one hell of a fight. In fact, Frazier still talks about that fight. I'd never had a main event fight before in my life. Johnson was beating the hell out of me, and I said to myself, *I'm not gonna fall down and quit, but I'll just foul out.*"

Rather than going the route others in his situation have taken, like biting a chunk out of Johnson, White started clowning around. He threw burlesque windmill punches, leaped around like a kangaroo, improvised double-uppercuts, and employed an assortment of other comic-book tactics.

The crowd loved it. The referee not only didn't disqualify White, but, noting the audience reaction to his buffoonery, urged him to keep it up. The only unhappy one was Johnson, who vented his mounting rage by putting mayhem into every punch he threw. And, as his composure deteriorated, he telegraphed every one.

"He got so mad, he tried to kill me," recalled White. "When he charged me to throw his right hand, I'd time him right and throw him into the ropes. Once he started winding up with every punch, all I had to do was duck. The madder he'd get, the easier it got, and before I knew it I'd lasted 10 rounds with him."

"Ventura's "Windmill" White Pleases Crowd, Loses Bout," headlined the Associated Press account of the bout the next day. The unanimous decision for Scrapiron—who was still so angry he wouldn't speak to White after the final bell—was secondary to the decision Windmill (a permanent nickname) made that night about his future in the ring.

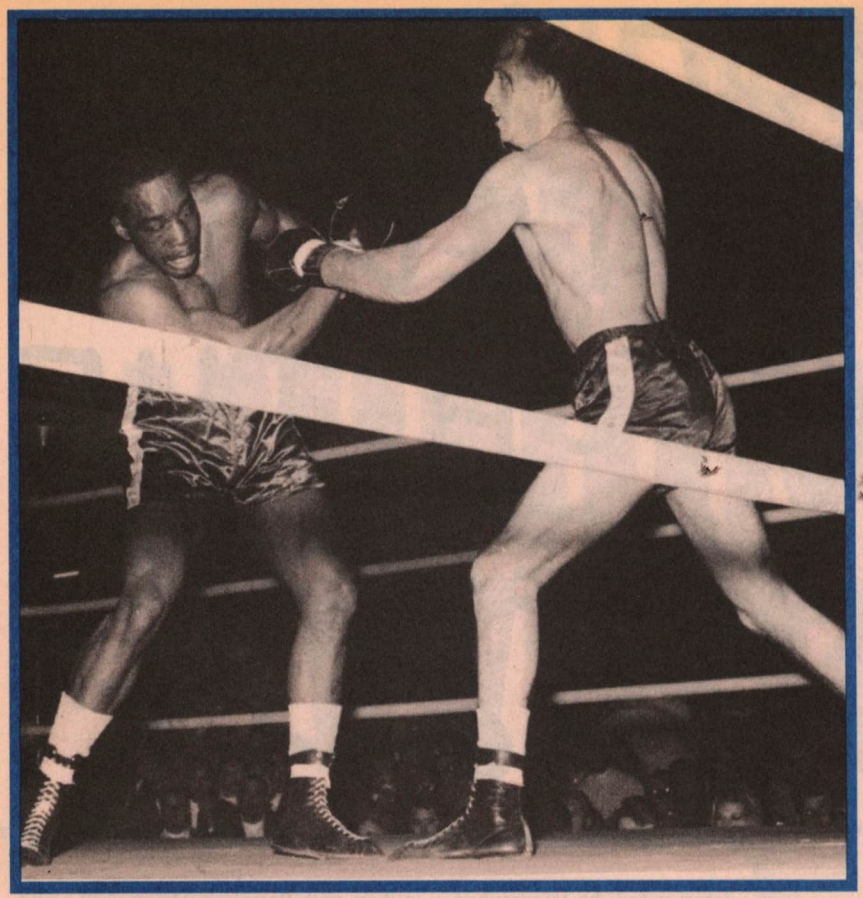
"I figured if I could stay in there with Scrapiron," he said, "I could stay in there with anyone."

Through the next seven years he did, using his cartoonish moves to frustrate—and sometimes beat—some of the best light heavyweights and heavyweights around, and make the self-styled "Clown Prince Of Boxing" one of the biggest ring attractions on the West Coast.

"He was a real entertainer," recalled Don Chargin, the California promoter who was the matchmaker at the Olympic Auditorium in the '60s. "I'll tell you, we used to have people call up and wonder when he was scheduled to fight. When that happens six or seven times, you notice."

"Promoters wanted me on every week," White told a reporter. "All the people wanted to watch the weirdo fight."

He gave them what they wanted, inventing bizarre moves on the spur of the moment like the "Wilt Chamberlain Dunk Punch," whereby Windmill would leap straight up and take a downward swing at his opponent while in the air. He would also punch from behind his back ("The Shot From Behind The Tree"), hook simultaneously with both hands ("The Ice Tongs Punch"), or fall down because he "needed a rest." In a fight he won against



"Windmill" throws a relatively orthodox left hand during a 1967 bout with Mark White. Later that year, the California light heavyweight would alter his style completely in a bout with George "Scrapiron" Johnson, leaving the conventional boxer in him far behind.

tough Charley "Bad News" Austin, after both fighters slipped to the floor during a clinch, White got up first and proceeded to count over Austin.

The crowds came not only to expect his shtik, but demanded it. Nobody came to hear Spike Jones play Chopin. Before he beat heavyweight Steve Grant on July 1, 1969, White recalled that "one night I was playing it straight with no clowning, and the fans were booing the fight. The referee came over to me and said, 'C'mon, White, they want you to start doing that screwy stuff.' So I did, and the crowd was happy, and I won the fight."

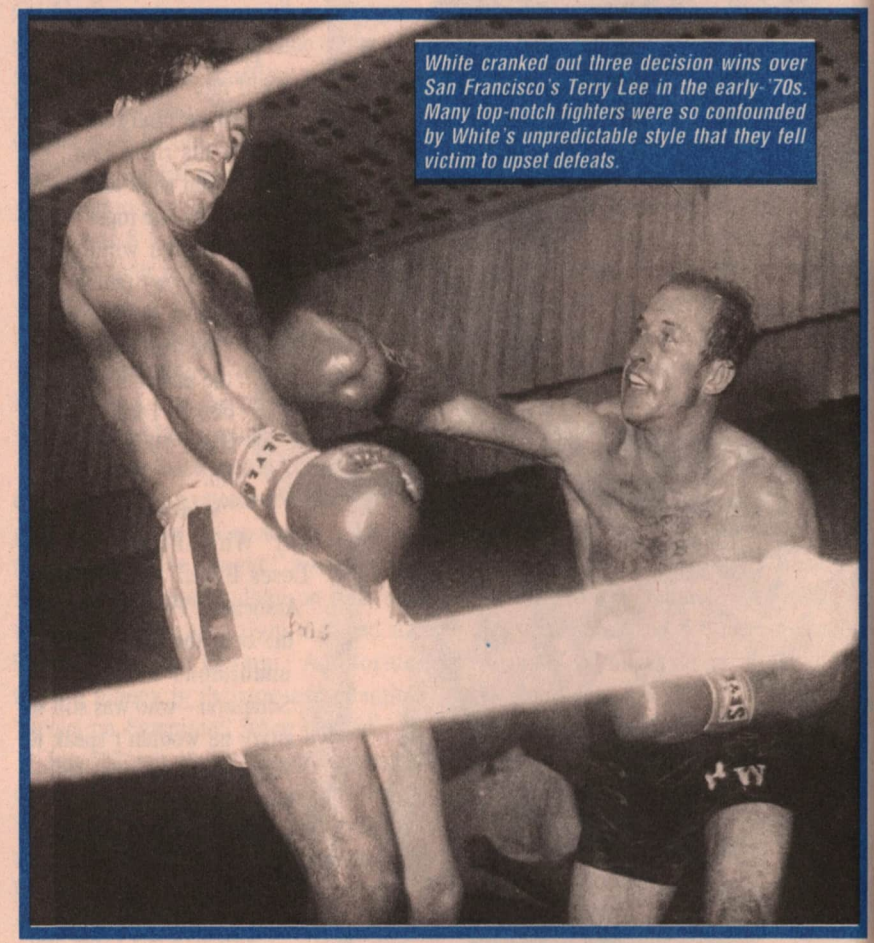
However, not everyone was bowled over by his act. When Windmill fought another Southern California character called Frank "Snakebite" Niblett in the fall of '69, he announced his strategy beforehand: "I hope to confuse him. Of course, Snakebite is pretty confused anyway." It worked, and White won the 10-round decision. But at the end of round seven, state boxing inspector Dick Andresen felt called upon to threaten to withhold the boxers' paychecks if they didn't cut the comedy, calling their exhibition "an insult to professional boxing."

"White, of course, played the lead," wrote Don Fraser, THE RING's California correspondent. "He uncorked the traditional backhand and jump punches, and faked injury in a manner straight out of acting school."

The purist's view of Windmill is echoed today by Clay Hodges, one of America's top amateur heavyweights in the '60s, who twice defeated George Foreman. Now an actor in Los Angeles, Hodges gives two thumbs down to White's performances.

"I have to say that while he was entertaining for people to watch, he was an embarrassment to the sport," said Hodges. "I don't mean he was not or is not a good guy. It's just that he made boxing a laughable spoof on the level of professional wrestling when he performed his crackpot antics in the ring."

But Windmill's worst critics were the guys in the other corner, many of whom



White cranked out three decision wins over San Francisco's Terry Lee in the early-'70s. Many top-notch fighters were so confounded by White's unpredictable style that they fell victim to upset defeats.

got even more bent out of shape than Scrapiron when White made them his comedy foil. "I've been attacked in dressing rooms by guys who said I embarrassed them in front of their girlfriends," he told one reporter.

Once, he now recalls, after a fight against a heavyweight whose name he chooses not to divulge, "I came out of my dressing room into the dark arena and *Pow*!" White's opponent that night was waiting to ambush him, and got in a punch to the neck before he was pulled away.

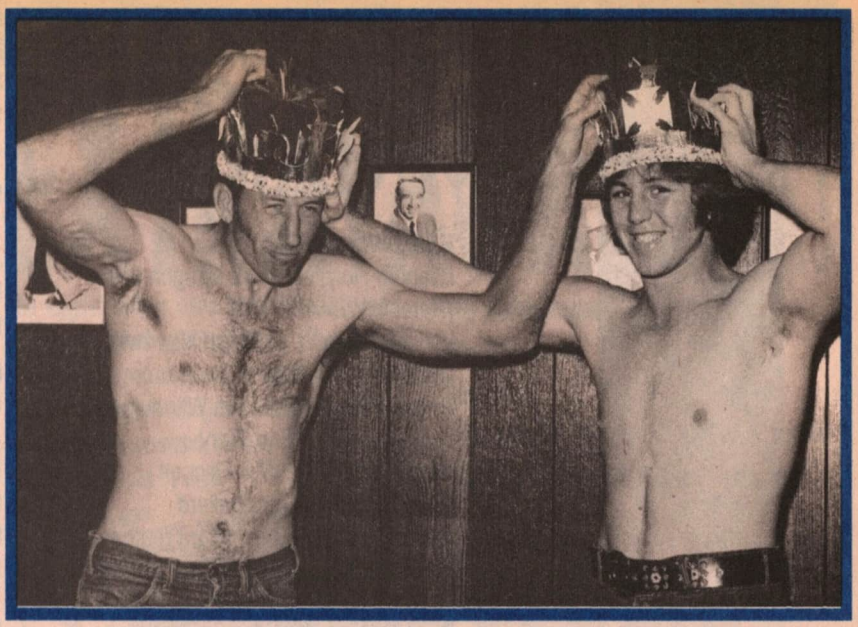
Another opponent who didn't put Windmill on his Christmas card list was Roby Harris, a 6'8", 250-pounder who was impressive stopping Los Angeles heavyweight Joey Orbillo, but then lost his head and a 10-round decision to White on January 9, 1971.

"I was about 185 pounds, and I was faking a lot of stuff to get the crowd booing him," White said. "He'd step on my feet, so I'd fall down. During the fight he wanted to kill me, and after the fight he still wanted to kill me, so I just stayed away from him."

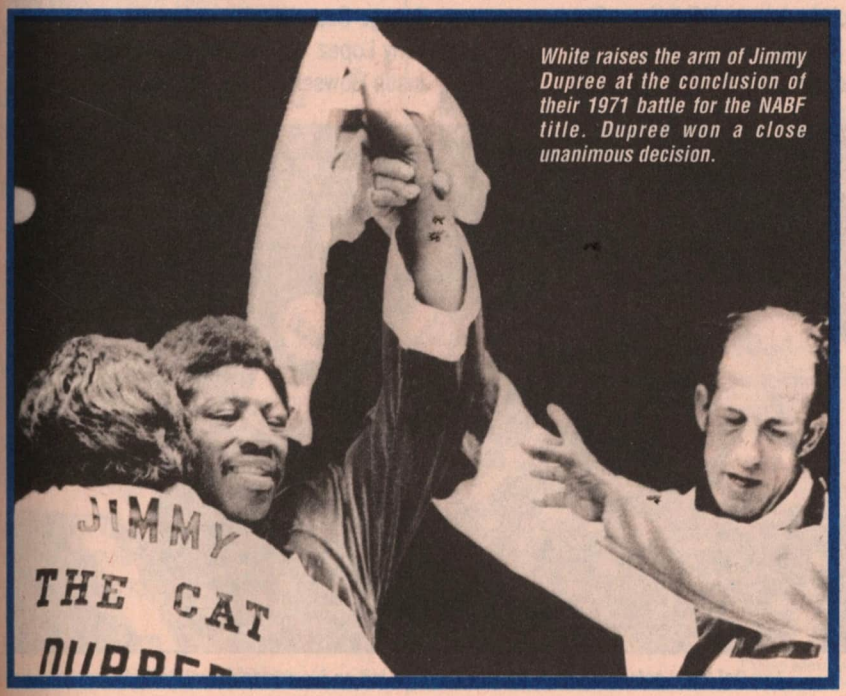
Bringing out the worst in the big fellows was the method of White's madness. "The harder they punched, the more stuff I'd pull to make them mad," he said, "which was playing into my hands. Boxers gave me trouble."

Los Angeles Times columnist Jim Murray wrote that White "holds his hands out in front of him like a guy getting an artist's perspective, then he rushes forward like a bowler." But in fact, says Chargin, Windwill "was awkwardly clever, if it's possible to be that. He could make guys miss, and very few fighters were a shoo-in over him. A lot of guys with much more ability, he frustrated them so badly, they ended up being close fights."

It was worse than that for former world title challenger Roger Rouse, whom White shut out over 10 rounds on May 22, 1971.



Boxing's "Clown Prince" tries on a crown prior to his 1973 NABF title fight against Mike Quarry. White lost a close, controversial decision to Quarry, but made several more successful defenses of the California state light heavy title before retiring with a 48-15-5 record.



White raises the arm of Jimmy Dupree at the conclusion of their 1971 battle for the NABF title. Dupree won a close unanimous decision.

"I could've beat anybody in the world," White said of his showing against Rouse. "I should've been in with [light heavyweight champion] Bob Foster."

Said a thoroughly flummoxed Rouse after the bout: "If you fought him five times, you might be able to figure him out. I didn't expect anything like that."

With that victory, and having won the California state 175-pound title a month before, The Clown Prince cracked the world rankings and earned a shot at top-rated Jimmy Dupree for the North American Boxing Federation belt. Had Dupree not scored a knockdown with a bodypunch in the fourth, giving him a 10-8 round, the 12-round unanimous verdict he won would've been a draw instead.

Windmill went on successfully defending the state title, and when he met undefeated Mike Quarry, then hurtling toward a title fight with Foster, Don Hafer of the *L.A. Times* called them the "two best light heavyweights in Southern California," and added: "For several years, White, whose antics include behind-the-back punches, double-uppercuts, and many other punches not in most fighters' repertoires, was considered only a clown. But he has beaten some of the best light heavyweights around, including Charley Austin and Orlando De La Fuentes."

The January 29, 1973, fight before

(Continued on page 64)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Evander Holyfield W 12 Vaughn Bean
(Retains WBA/IBF Title)
Lennox Lewis W 12 Zeljko Mavrovic
(Retains WBC Title)
Andrew Golota W 10 Tim Witherspoon
David Tua KO 1 Eric Curry
Herbie Hide KO 2 Willi Fischer
John Ruiz KO 4 Gary Ballard
Corey Sanders KO 2 Arthur Weathers
Jesse Ferguson W 10 Tyrone Booze
Danell Nicholson W 10 Mike Sedillo
Brian Nielsen KO 1 George Linberger
Brian Nielsen KO 5 Terry Ray
Jade Scott KO 1 Derek Amos
Artis Pendergrass KO 7 Gary Bell
Lamon Brewster KO 1 Marcus Rhode
Monte Barrett W 10 Bryant Smith
Pele Reid KO 3 Biko Botowamungu
Wladimir Klitschko KO 2 Steve Pannell
Wladimir Klitschko KO 3 Eli Dixon
Joe Mesi KO 3 Martin Lopez
Nate Jones KO 1 Bryan Chitwood
Butterbean KO 3 Troy Roberts

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Juan Carlos Gomez KO 2 Alexei Iliin
(Retains WBC Title)
Vassiliy Jirov KO 8 John Kiser
Jacob Mofokeng KO 7 Ryan Poletti
Ole Klemetsen KO 1 Artee Bright
Leeonzer Barber KO 2 Earl Niles

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 8 Mark Prince
Lou Del Valle W 8 Tyrone Armstead
Glen Kelly KO 7 Sam Leuii
Joe Gatti KO 2 Kelvin Prather

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Thomas Tate W 12 Demetrius Davis
Jorge Castro KO 4 Sandro Vazquez
Mads Larsen KO 6 Lee Fortune
Danny Ryan W 12 Jimmy Vincent

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Robert Allen KO 1 Abdula Ramadan
(Wins IBF Interim Title)
Dana Rosenblatt W 12 Terry Norris
Mpush Makambi KO 11 Adrian Dodson
Freeman Barr KO 7 Scotty Smith
Rhoshii Wells KO 8 Robert Koon

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Yory Boy Campas KO 3 Larry Barnes
(Retains IBF Title)
Raul Marquez W 10 Shibata Flores
Rodney Jones KO 8 William Ruiz
Kevin Kelly W 10 Tauvela Ioane

WELTERWEIGHTS
Oscar De La Hoya KO 8 Julio Cesar Chavez
(Retains WBC Title)
Santos Cardona KO 9 Willy Wise
Charles Murray KO 1 Rick Edson
Mike Griffith W 12 Dezi Ford
Frank Olsen W 12 Lamar Murphy
Michael Carruth W 12 Scott Dixon

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Antonio Diaz KO 12 Hector Quiroz
George Scott W 8 Rimvidas Bilius
Tony Lopez KO 3 Jaime Ocegueda
Justin Rowsell KO 5 Faral Master

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Lou Del Valle catches Tyrone Armstead with a left on his way to a decision win

Lovemore Ndou KO 4 Jeremiah Malinga
Cory Spinks W 6 Lupe Suazo
Christy Martin KO 5 Christine Robinson
Lucia Rijker KO 5 Marcela Acuna

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Shane Mosley KO 5 Eduardo Morales
(Retains IBF Title)
Arnulfo Castillo W 10 Isander Lacen
Billy Schwer KO 7 Manuel Carlos Fernandes
Acelino Freitas KO 2 Tomas Da Cruz

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Floyd Mayweather Jr. KO 8
Genaro Hernandez
(Wins WBC Title)
Angel Manfredy W 12 John Brown
Anatoly Alexandrov KO 2 Pedro Ferradas
Carlos Gerena KO 10 Adan Casillas
Joel Casamayor W 6 Eugene Johnson

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Antonio Cermeno KO 4 Genaro Rios
(Wins Vacant WBA Title)
Freddie Norwood KO 10 Koji Matsumoto
Dennis Holbaek W 12 Tom Johnson
Juan Manuel Chavez W 10 Juan Polo-Perez
Julio Pablo Chacon W 8 Darryl Pinckney
Cassius Baloyi KO 10 Domingo Damigella
Willie Jorrin KO 2 Julio Cardona
Zahir Raheem KO 5 Shawn Powell
Augie Sanchez W 6 Francisco Maldonado
Augie Sanchez KO 1 Ramon Gomez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Carlos Barreto W 12 Hector Acero-Sanchez
(Wins WBA Interim Title)
Marco Antonio Barrera KO 4
Pedro Javier Torres
Jesus Salud KO 2 David Vazquez
Nestor Garza W 12 Jesus Sarabia

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Jorge Eliecer Julio W 12 Adonis Cruz

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Eric Morel KO 6 Rodolfo Blanco

FLYWEIGHTS
Mauricio Pastrana W 12 Jose Bonilla
(Wins WBA Interim Title)
Isidro Garcia W 12 Jesus Chong

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Hawk Makepula Tech. Win 4 Rafael Torres
Ramel Gavero KO 3 Rocky Palma

STRAWWEIGHTS
Lindi Memani W 12 Juan Herrera

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

It's not unusual for a young fighter's record to be padded with nobodies on his way to the title. But *after* becoming champion? Morales, who had a distinct dearth of name fighters on his resume before outlasting Daniel Zaragoza for the WBC 122-pound title in September of '97, made his first three defenses against opposition that should feel complemented if referred to as "suspect": unknown Irishman John Lowey, more unknown Argentinian Remigio Daniel Molina, and washed-up Mexican Jose Luis Bueno. Not that Morales hadn't looked impressive in some of those fights—he was especially devastating in his swift kayo of Bueno—but they hardly proved that he deserved to be called champion.

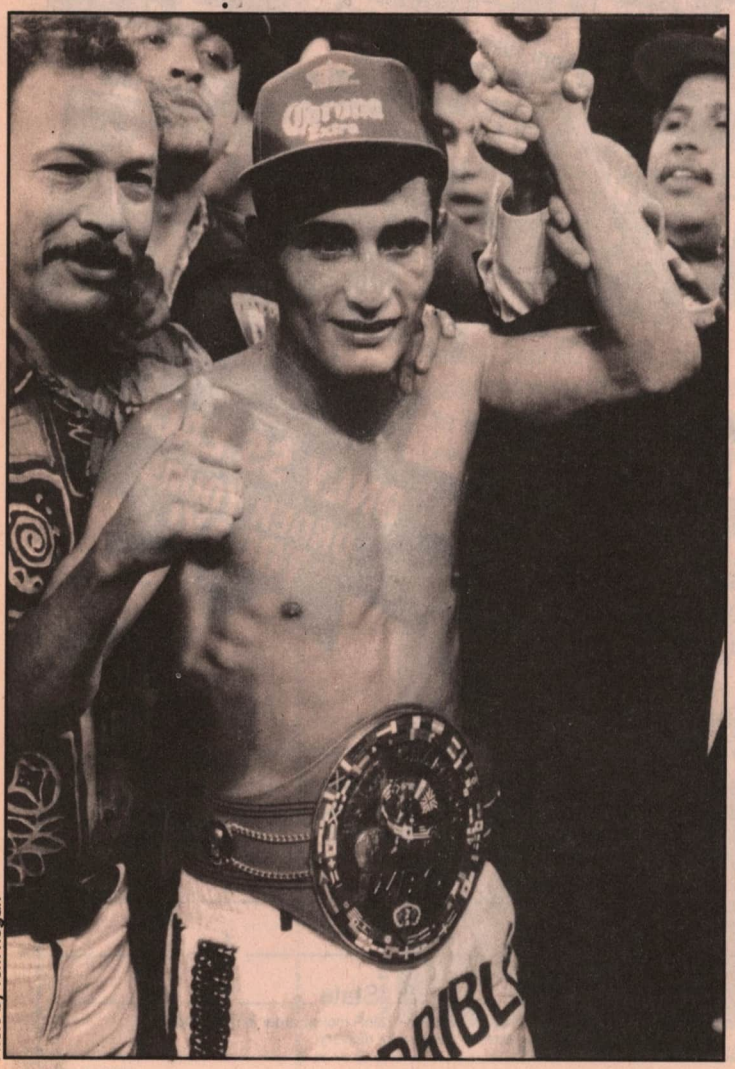

Photo by Tom Hogan

But those who saw Morales bludgeon former world champ Junior Jones can no longer question his claim to the junior featherweight throne. The short right hand that wobbled Jones' legs and lacerated his eyebrow in the fourth round had to make HBO's Jim Lampley wonder what he was thinking when he questioned "El Terrible's" power before the fight. Jones was down three right hands later, and the aggressive champion forced a stoppage with five seconds remaining in the round. Morales had whacked out a man who was ranked among boxing's pound-for-pound best a year earlier, proving himself as a champion and opening the door to more fights against recognizable names in the future.

• • • •

Erik Morales

Lennox Lewis W 12 Zeljko Mavrovic

Uncasville, Connecticut: If the fighters were wearing face masks, TV viewers could be excused for thinking they'd accidentally tuned in to a "Heavyweight Explosion" card by mistake. Such was the quality of boxing produced by both defending WBC heavyweight champion Lewis and number-one contender Mavrovic during their untidy encounter at the Mohegan Sun Casino.

Little was expected of Mavrovic, who mysteriously ascended to the WBC's mandatory challenger position without ever beating a world-class adversary. It was, however, anticipated that Lewis would take advantage of the situation to amplify public demand for a showdown with IBF/WBA champ Evander Holyfield. But instead of an emphatic knockout, the Englishman settled for a ragged unanimous decision that did little to promote his cause.

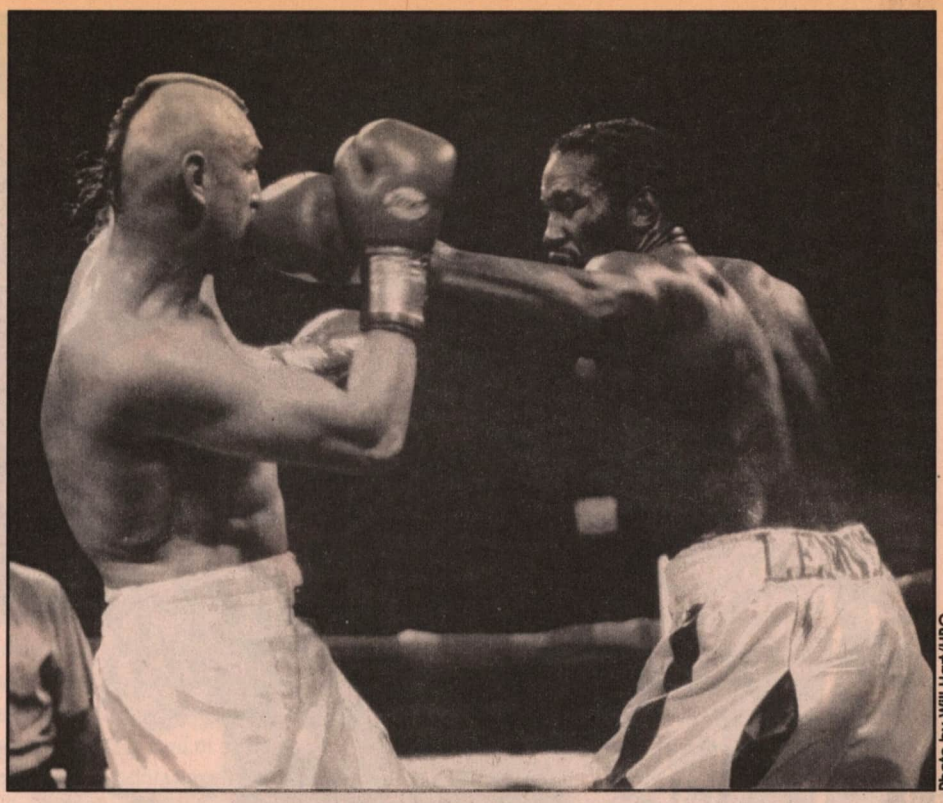

Photo by Will Hart/HBO

Lewis wards off willing Mavrovic with a jab

While Mavrovic employed the wooden, stand-up style typical of most Eastern European boxers, he certainly didn't lack for courage. He took the fight to Lewis the first three rounds and succeeded in connecting with a respectable number of lefts and rights. Lewis, meanwhile, was content to back away and look for counter opportunities that never came.

After trainer Emanuel Steward told Lewis to get more aggressive, he charged out for the fourth round and banged home a left hook and a right uppercut, the punch that would soon prove to be his best weapon. Lewis, his mouth already hanging open with fatigue, scored again with the uppercut in the fifth and early in the sixth, but when he eased off and began dancing late in the round, the pro-Mavrovic crowd of slightly more than 4,000 began to boo.

The seventh round was a dilly. Mavrovic, 27-1 (22), initiated an exchange with a crisp one-two, and Lewis, 34-1 (27), blasted back with rights. A left, a right, and another left, all of which connected cleanly, propelled Lewis into the ropes, where the Croatian challenger jolted his head back with uppercuts. Suddenly, Lewis appeared to be in trouble, but as Mavrovic strove to press his advantage, Lewis came off the ropes with a massive right to the head that terminated Mavrovic's assault and pretty much put an end to his hopes of taking the belt back to Zagreb.

Mavrovic, 214, didn't win a round on any of the official scorecards after the seventh, as Lewis' superior size and punching power began to dominate. Still, the champion only fought hard in spurts, failing to attack with any consistency. Between offensive bursts, Lewis, a beefy 243, clinched, mauled, and danced. It was physically grueling stuff, but far from inspiring.

The unanimous scoring in Lewis' favor was as follows: Bob Logist (Belgium), 117-112; Franco Ciminole (Italy), 117-111; Tommy Kaczmarek (USA), 119-109. The referee was Frank Cappuccino (USA).

"I expected Mavrovic to run. He didn't run," said Lewis as an alibi for his lackluster showing.

"It was a very strange fight, a fight totally different than what we prepared for," agreed Steward.

And Lewis' inexplicable lack of stamina?

"Lennox definitely was huffing and puffing by the third round," said Steward. "I can't explain why. He definitely trained hard for this fight."

You could have fooled us.

Television: HBO

Promoter: Main Events, Panix Promotions

(9-26-98)

Nigel Collins

Yory Boy Campas KO 3 Larry Barnes

Las Vegas, Nevada: Campas, 153, Navojoa, Mexico, took full advantage of his superior height, reach, and power to wear down game but outgunned Barnes, 153½, Mt. Vernon, New York, retaining the IBF junior middleweight title on a TKO at the end of the third round in the semifinal to Oscar De La Hoya's stoppage of Julio Cesar Chavez at the Thomas & Mack Center.

The 27-year-old Campas' strategy was to throw steady combinations to the head and body. Accuracy was a must, since the 5'10" champion was forced to punch down at the gutsy 5'5" Barnes, who was fighting out of a crouch and struggling to work inside. Campas employed a jolting right hand from the opening bell, and the punch methodically closed Barnes' left eye. Often Barnes, 32, had to leap to land a punch, but not without paying the price.

The challenger's ducking and dipping weren't going to be enough against the pressuring Campas. Barnes' left eye was closed

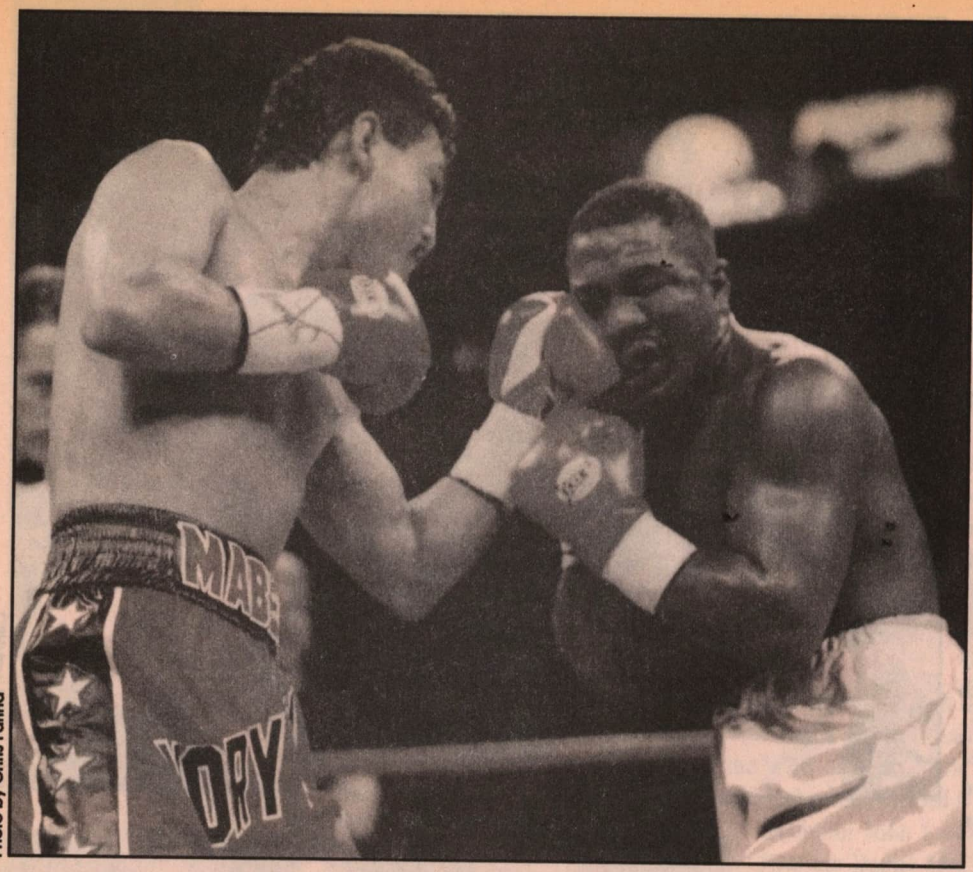

Photo by Chris Farina

Campas mangles Barnes' face with a left hand

when he went back to his corner after the third round, and ringside physician Flip Homansky had little trouble convincing Mitch Halpern (USA) stop the one-sided bout.

Basically, it was an excellent tuneup for the rock-ribbed Mexican, who has a mandatory defense on the books, perhaps in the first week of December, against number-one contender Fernando Vargas, 14-0 (14). Trainer Miguel Diaz was pleased with Campas' methodical display of TNT punching, but both he and Campas were disappointed the action didn't go into the middle rounds.

"Yory Boy felt like he was just getting warmed up," Diaz said. "You can say every fight to him is a mission to destroy. He has proven that with Raul Marquez, Anthony Stephens, Pedro Ortega, and now Larry Barnes. But he doesn't care if a fight goes five, nine, or 12 rounds, as long as he comes back a winner."

Campas, a pro since 1987, improved his credentials to 72-2 (62) while posting his third defense since winning the IBF laurels from then-unbeaten Marquez on an eighth-round TKO last December. Campas was totally focused for the New Yorker, whose record dipped to 44-3 (17).

"Everybody has asked me when I'm going to fight Oscar De La Hoya," Campas said through translator Diaz. "Or maybe Fernando Vargas, or even Raul Marquez. I told them the only thing I had on my mind is Larry Barnes. I told people when I beat Barnes, I'll think about those other guys. Well, I beat Barnes, so now I say bring on Oscar, Fernando, Raul, or whoever."

Promoter: Top Rank
Television: TVKO
(9-18-98)
Jack Welsh

In Joo Cho W 12 Gerry Penalosa

Seoul, Korea: Unbeaten Korean speedster Cho kept dancing all night and was awarded an upset split decision over defending WBC super flyweight champ Penalosa, a Filipino lefty, over 12 unspectacular rounds at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Judges Chuck Hassett (USA) and Chuck Williams (USA) scored it for Cho by 117-115 and 116-113, respectively, while Dalby Shirley (USA) had it 116-112 for Penalosa.

Simply put, it was a terrible bout. It will surely be a strong candidate for the WBC's worst fight of the year, since there was no actual fight, with Cho running around and Penalosa missing throughout. If CompuBox had counted the number of punches connected, they certainly would not have reached triple digits for the two fighters combined. Both of them fought as counterpunchers, waiting all too patiently for openings. Almost every round was hard to score, except the seventh when Cho, 115, almost toppled the champ with a left hook, only to see Penalosa, 115, saved by the bell as the challenger tried furiously to follow up.

Penalosa, making his fourth defense, seemed to be at a loss in the first five rounds due to Cho's negative run-and-run strategy. The Filipino southpaw maintained the pressure, but seldom threw punches at the elusive target.

Having been encouraged by his brother and cornerman, ex-IBF junior fly and fly champ Dodi Boy Penalosa, the defending WBC titlist started throwing punches in the sixth, only to suffer a gash on the right side of the skull. Penalosa grew careless for a moment in the seventh and paid for it, taking the aforementioned left hook from Cho in the closing seconds of the round.

From the ninth onward, Penalosa went forward to retain his title, but missed many punches due to Cho's fast footwork and fine defensive skill. The final session saw Penalosa almost floor Cho with a southpaw right hook, but Japanese referee Nobuaki Uratani grabbed Cho's head, thinking Cho was losing his balance due to a slippery canvas. The decision not to call a knockdown led to great controversy, as a 10-8 round for Penalosa would have made Hassett's tally 116-115 for the Filipino.

Cho, 29, raised his mark to 13-0 (6), while Penalosa, 27, fell to 39-2-2 (24). The winner of this title bout was obliged to meet the WBC's top contender Joel Luna Zarate, who fought to a second-round technical draw with Penalosa in Manila earlier in the year.

Promoter: Punsan Promotions
(8-29-98)
Joe Koizumi

Angel Manfredy W 12 John Brown

New York, New York: It began as a battle of bad costumes and, according to Manfredy, it turned into a clash of heads. But in spite of the perceived headbutting by his opponent, the 24-year-old from Gary, Indiana, won a hard-fought decision over Brown, 30, Atlantic City, New Jersey, in front of 4,062 at The Theater at Madison Square Garden.

Manfredy, 130, 25-2-1 (20), received more of a struggle than he may have anticipated from Brown, 130, 18-5 (9), on the debut of TNT Network's *Title Night*. The fight got sloppy at times, with both fighters exchanging inadvertent headbutts. "El Diablo" felt referee Wayne Kelly (USA) should have been more aware of the butting, but Kelly did take a point away from Brown in the 10th for a low blow, after Brown, who appeared in a Sesame Street-esque beast costume, had received a warning earlier in the round.

The 5'3" Brown surprisingly began the fight as the aggressor. Attempting to offset Manfredy's three-inch height advantage, Brown went on the attack from the opening bell with combinations and a solid left hook that quickly grabbed the attention of Manfredy, who countered with a consistent jab and grinding left hooks to the body.

Manfredy, who entered the ring dressed in his usual devil's garb, won the first two rounds, but "The Eastern Beast" made a surge in the middle rounds. After eight, Brown was even on the card of judge Paul Herman (USA), and seemed on the way to a possible upset after rattling Manfredy in both the seventh and eighth rounds.

The 10th round proved to be Brown's undoing. As Manfredy appeared to be gaining strength, Brown's work rate slowed and his combinations dissipated into one-punch assaults. Brown, starting to show fatigue, fired a borderline shot early in the round that Kelly quickly warned him about. Moments later, a Brown uppercut caught Manfredy low, and Kelly had no choice but to take a point away. Manfredy finished strong, opening a cut over Brown's left eye in the final round.

The judges gave Manfredy a close but unanimous decision. Melvina Lathan (USA) scored it 116-111, while Steve Weisfeld (USA) and Herman each had it 115-112. THE RING scored it 116-112 for Manfredy.

"Brown used his head a lot," Manfredy said. "I think the referee did a bad job. It's hard fighting a guy who keeps hitting you with his head."

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Promotions
(9-22-98)
Joe Santoliquito

Richie Woodhall W 12 Glenn Catley

Telford, England: Substitute challenger Catley, 167¾, brought in on 12 days' notice for injured Italian former champion Vincenzo Nardiello, attacked and harassed Woodhall, 166¾, throughout their bout at the Ice Rink, never allowing him to settle. The 26-year-old Catley accomplished everything he could have hoped to, except for convincing the three judges that he should be the new WBC super middleweight champion. Woodhall, 30, making his first defense, was given the majority decision, but his demeanor at the final bell said it all, as did his gracious words shortly after.

"Glenn deserved it, I didn't," said Woodhall, 24-1 (14), who claimed the title from South African Sugarboy Malinga in March. "He was better than me on this night. My jab was miles away, and it was an awful performance."

Woodhall's jab was frequently fully extended before it reached the target at all, and just as often he missed with it woefully. The switch in opponent did not help, despite Catley being a natural 160-pounder who wasn't even ranked in the top 10 at middleweight by the WBC. Catley's aggressive style contrasted totally with the slippery, non-committal boxing of Nardiello, whom Woodhall had spent months preparing physically and mentally for. Perhaps his preparation had lasted too long, a result of various postponements brought by Don King, who won the purse bids for Woodhall-Nardiello. At no point could the former Olympic medalist raise the pace.

There were few good clean shots landed throughout the entire 12 rounds. Most of Catley's hooks went astray, while a subdued Woodhall mostly bounced up and down, producing little that was constructive or in the slightest respect a deterrent. Catley's best rounds were the seventh, when he caught the champion with several bludgeoning blows, the 11th, when he again staggered Woodhall with a right, and the 12th, which he took comprehensively.

But judges Terry O'Connor (England) and Marty Denkin (USA) scored for Woodhall by 116-113 and 115-113 respectively, while Nicolas Hidalgo (Venezuela) made it a 114-114 draw. THE RING had it 116-114 for Catley.

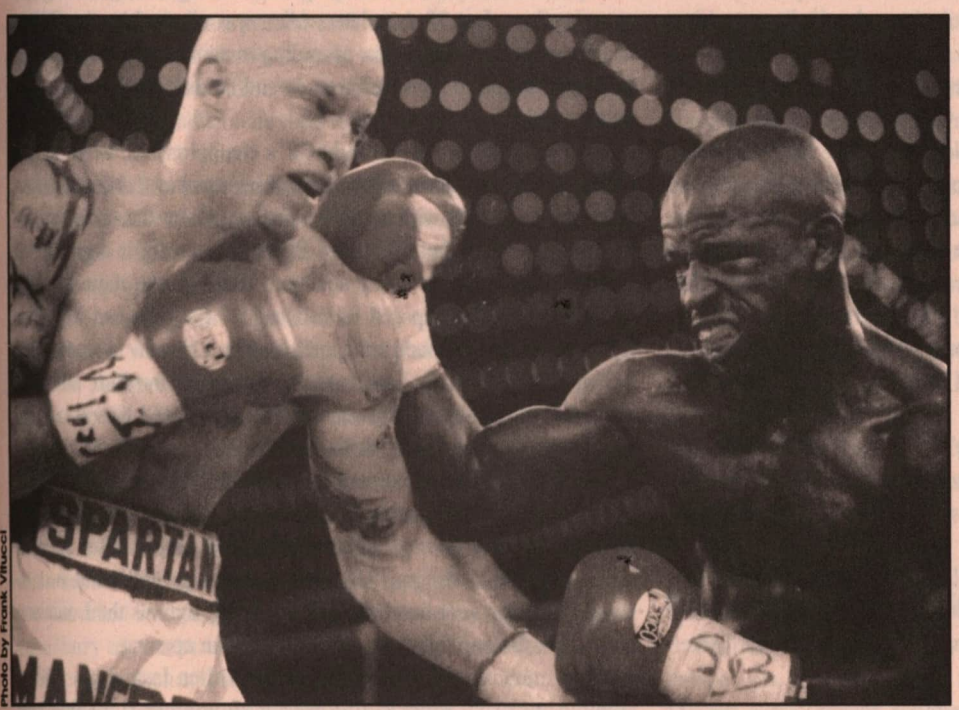

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Manfredy and Brown slug it out in an action-packed struggle

"You can't believe how devastated I am," said Catley, 22-3 (17), who will have to fall back into line behind Nardiello for a second chance.

Promoter: Frank Warren

(9-5-98)

Brian Doogan

Freddie Norwood KO 10 Koji Matsumoto

Tokyo, Japan: Unbeaten Norwood, 127¾, St. Louis, Missouri, failed to make the weight and lost the WBA feather title on the scale, but completely overpowered and overwhelmed Matsumoto, 126, Japan, en route to a TKO win 25 seconds into the 10th before some 4,000 fans at Yoyogi Gymnasium.

The crowd, mostly unaware of Norwood's problems on the scale, was stunned when he was introduced as the former world champ by the ring announcer. Norwood scaled 135 pounds the day before the weigh-in and made a strenuous effort to reduce his weight, only to end up 1¾ pounds over the limit at the official weigh-in. He was allowed two extra hours to make weight, but was so drained and groggy from all his efforts that he declined the additional opportunity. Matsumoto had a chance to become the WBA titlist if he beat the former champ, but as it turned out, the Japanese southpaw was never in it.

Norwood, dubbed "Li'l Hagler" due to his resemblance to Marvelous Marvin, overpowered Matsumoto from the outset. In the closing seconds of the opening canto, Norwood, who is also a southpaw, caught his taller opponent with very solid left crosses to the neck and had him at bay. The 28-year-old American was also in command in the second, as he often landed heavy left crosses followed by solid right hooks that reddened his opponent's face.

Matsumoto, also 28, showed his abilities in round three when he threw numerous jabs and scored with double right hooks to the face. Norwood tossed just one punch at a time, but his sporadic blows looked decidedly more powerful than the light-punching Matsumoto's. Norwood dominated the fourth and fifth, but was penalized a point in round five for repeatedly hitting below the belt despite South African referee Stanley Christodoulou's warnings.

The sixth and seventh were all Norwood, as he had Matsumoto on the defensive with destructive shots to the face and breadbasket. In the eighth, Li'l Hagler had Matsumoto on the verge of a knockdown when he pinned him along the ropes and tossed a barrage of punches, only to see the Japanese warrior saved by the bell. After another lopsided round in the ninth, Christodoulou said to Matsumoto's manager and chief second, Kenji Yonekura, "The next may be the last round. Your boy will be stopped if he doesn't show something."

As the 10th started, Norwood's southpaw right hook had Matsumoto, 26-6-1 (15), reeling to the ropes. The ref quickly declared a well-received stoppage to save the loser from further punishment.

Norwood said after the victory, "I got disappointed with myself, losing my title on the scale. But I will win back the world title soon."

Promoter: Yonekura Promotions in association with Teiken Promotions

(9-22-98)

Joe Koizumi

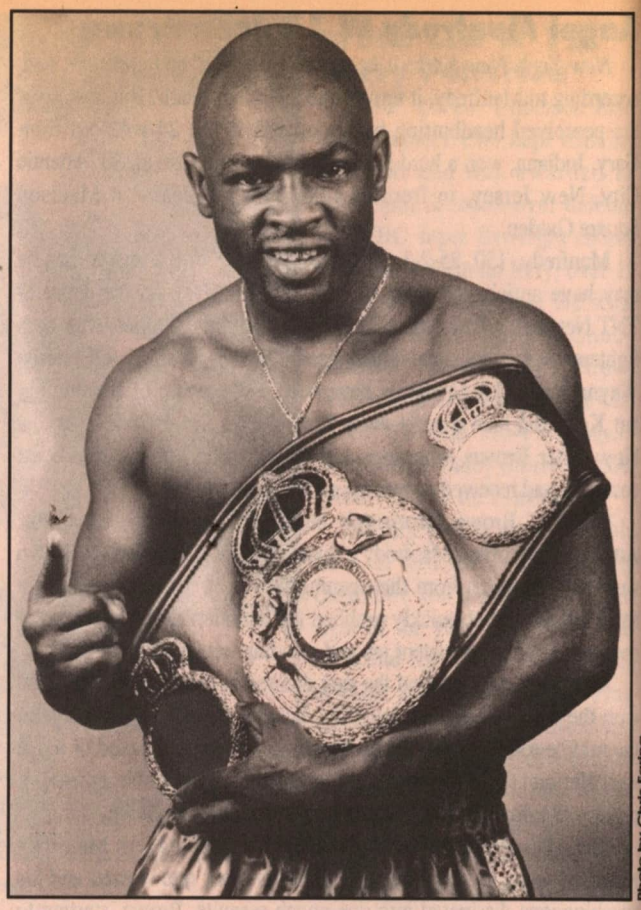

Photo by Chris Farina

Norwood had to give up the WBA feather title, but kayoed Matsumoto

Robert Allen KO 1 Abdula Ramadan

Atlanta, Georgia: It didn't take long for Allen to follow up on his surprising performance against Bernard Hopkins, a spirited clash for the IBF middleweight championship that ended abruptly when the champion suffered an ankle injury after falling through the ropes onto the floor. Just 22 days later, Allen was allowed by the IBF to box for an interim title, since, according to a press release, Hopkins' recovery made him unavailable to defend his belt in a rematch in a timely fashion.

Given an opportunity to fight for a championship, even one of such questionable merit, in his adopted hometown of Atlanta, Allen made the most of it with a quick night's work on the undercard of the Evander Holyfield-Vaughn Bean heavyweight bout at the Georgia Dome. The streaking southpaw didn't get to show his fans much as he quickly exposed Ramadan, 13-7 (9), who had won four fights in a row, but hadn't stepped foot in a ring in nine months. Allen, 23-2 (18) with 1 no-contest, was quite familiar with the obscure Ugandan by way of Canada, having utilized him as a sparring partner in his preparation for Hopkins.

Allen, 160, seemed content to set a comfortable pace and get used to his surroundings, but Ramadan, 160, showed little respect at the start, pressing forward with a crude attack before Allen swatted him away with a stinging left counter that signaled what was to come. Ramadan kept bombing with a looping right as the Louisiana native shot flicking right jabs and looked for an opening.

Two minutes into the opening round, Allen lashed out with a counter hook and quickly followed with another right that had Ramadan stumbling back into his own corner. Allen teed off with a

salvo of five unanswered shots, and the bewildered Ramadan turned his back and leaned over the ropes to escape further punishment. Referee Jim Korb (USA) ruled a knockdown and issued a mandatory eight-count. Allen waded in to finish the job and caught Ramadan with a left to the chin that caused his foe to turn his back again and wander toward a neutral corner with Allen in pursuit. Having seen enough, Korb waved off the one-sided affair at the 2:46 mark.

"I don't know what he was thinking," Allen said. "I know what I was thinking. I just took care of business. In this situation, you have to act like a veteran."

Hopkins must defend against Allen within 120 days to retain the belt, or Allen will be installed as the IBF champion.

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(9-19-98)

D.E. Thomas

Takanori Hatakeyama W 12 Yong Soo Choi

Tokyo, Japan: Unbeaten rising Japanese star Hatakeyama, 130, captured the WBA junior lightweight title as he withstood the opening attacks of defending champ Choi, 130, Korea, fought back hard in the later rounds, and earned a majority decision over 12 heats. Rodolfo Maldonado (Panama) and Hank Meijers (Netherlands) both scored the fight 116-113 for Hatakeyama, while Pinit Prayadsab (Thailand) saw it 114-114.

It was a grudge fight, as Choi barely kept the crown on a split draw in their first encounter in Tokyo last November. The previous fight had seen Choi sweep the last three rounds to retain the title, but this time it was Hatakeyama who won the last three sessions to seize the victory. From a technical viewpoint, the rematch was inferior to their previous battle. But it would have been difficult to convince the 8,500 fans who were in a frenzy to see the new champ crowned at Ryogoku Sumo Arena that this fight was less enjoyable.

After the combatants probed each other in the opening canto, Choi started his usual buzzsaw attack, winning the second and third. It was remarkable that Choi, a notoriously slow starter, displayed such fine opening rallies with solid right crosses and good combinations.

Hatakeyama let loose midway through the fourth, as he threw a barrage of punches at the stationary target. The challenger, however, had his right cheek swollen by the fourth, and its condition worsened as the bout progressed.

Choi, making his eighth defense, attempted to punish Hatakeyama with his trademark nonstop short combos, but the Japanese youngster managed to avert them by making good use of his foot speed. Choi was in clear command in the eighth, when he released a fusillade of punches to his fading opponent. As Choi had a reputation for admirable stamina despite his lack of finesse, the crowd expected him to grow stronger in later rounds. But the South Korean was not quite himself. Hatakeyama welcomed his own second wind and desperately went forward to apply his hit-and-grab tactics. It worked well, as Hatakeyama tallied points by repeatedly landing a flurry of punches and clinching to avert Choi's retaliations.

The game champion shifted his target to the belly of Hatakeyama, but he often hit lower than the belt. Referee Mitch Halpern (USA) warned Choi twice and finally penalized him a point in the 11th when he went low for a third time.

Photo by Jay Lash

Don King raises the hand of new IBF interim champ Allen

It was such a close affair that people didn't know who was leading on points after the 11th. But Hatakeyama showed his determination and gameness in maintaining the pressure on Choi in the final session.

The 23-year-old Hatakeyama, 22-0-1 (17), jubilantly said afterward, "I thought before the 12th and final session, *If I lose the last round, I cannot show my face to my fans and supporters.* So, I fought with all I had to win the last round."

Choi, 26, kept silent and left the arena almost immediately after the fight's conclusion. The ex-champ saw his record fall to 24-3-1 (14), and his manager/trainer Chunsok Kim voiced strongly that he disputed the decision. The talk has already turned to the possibility of a third meeting in the near future.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(9-5-98)

Joe Koizumi

Dana Rosenblatt W 12 Terry Norris

Mashantucket, Connecticut: In a traditional pairing of a rising prospect vs. a rapidly fading former champion, Rosenblatt, 158, Malden, Massachusetts, survived a furious late rally from the spirited and gutsy Norris, 156, San Diego, California, and won a unanimous

decision at the Foxwoods Casino.

The lefthanded Rosenblatt, 26, used a spearing right jab to keep Norris at bay, and won seven of the first eight rounds on all three judges' scorecards. The emaciated-looking Norris, 31, seemed a shadow of his former self, as he mechanically and ungracefully plodded forward in an attempt to land his vaunted and once deadly-accurate combinations.

Norris, 47-8 (31), managed to come alive in the ninth round, although he looked nothing like the esteemed three-time junior middleweight champion who could box and punch with equal aplomb during his formidable years. He still made things very interesting in the final four rounds as he desperately tried to reestablish his credibility by launching a heavy two-fisted offensive. Any hopes of victory, however, were dashed by Rosenblatt's very adept and incessant tactic of hitting and holding. While referee Steve Smoger (USA) gave several stern warnings to Rosenblatt for it, he never deducted a point.

Michael Marley and Scott Woodworth, the co-managers of Norris, raised a firestorm at the postfight press conference related to the holding issue and vowed to take it to the highest authority. In this case, that is either the spurious IBA or the Pequout tribal authorities.

"Terry Norris was beaten by Steve Smoger, not Dana Rosenblatt," railed Marley. "Dana's no dummy. The referee let him hold, so he's gonna hold. Dana's got more balls than the [Boston] Celtics, but fair is fair. If he is a real sportsman, he'll give us a rematch."

At that point, Joe Lake, Rosenblatt's trainer and co-manager, exited in disgust with the parting words: "I really thought you guys had more class than that."

The holding aside, Rosenblatt, 33-1 (23), seemed to do more than enough in the early going to warrant the victory. Judges Harold Lederman (USA) and Frank Garza (USA) scored the fight 115-113, while Gary Merritt (USA) saw it 116-112. A dejected Norris, whose athletic and motor skills appear greatly diminished, conceded that Rosenblatt "was very strong," but added, "he doesn't compare to some of the other guys I've fought and beat."

Television: ESPN2
Promoter: Top Rank
(9-25-98)
Robert Mladinich

Wandee Chor Chareon W 12 Rocky Lin

Yokohama, Japan: Fresh and ferocious Thailander Wandee, 104¾, kept punching the more experienced prefight favorite Lin, 104¾, a Japan-based Taiwanese fighter, despite Lin's tight defense, and earned a well-received majority verdict to acquire the vacant WBC interim strawweight title over 12 heats.

It was an encounter between the top two contenders to the WBC belt held by Ricardo Lopez. While Mexican strawweight legend Lopez had been inactive since March, debating whether to vacate the title and move up a weight class, the WBC ordered this bout for the interim title. Lin, 31, was a favorite due to his number-one WBC ranking and superior experience, having suffered his only setback against Lopez in 1992. Wandee was considered a prospect with great potential, but was thought to be overmatched against Lin, who had put together a streak of 12 consecutive wins after his sole defeat.

But Wandee was superior in freshness and aggressiveness throughout the contest. Judges Masakazu Uchida (Japan) and Noparat Srichareon (Thailand) both scored for Wandee by tallies of 116-114 and 115-113, respectively, while Carol Castellano (USA) had it 114-114. The referee was Laurence Cole (USA).

Wandee started out throwing methodical jabs, while Lin cautiously averted them without throwing punches. In the second through fifth, Wandee was the clear aggressor, throwing jabs and left-right combinations. Lin, however, avoided almost all his shots and occasionally countered with right crosses. But it was obvious that Wandee took the initiative and had the veteran on the defensive.

Wandee, 18, was in command in the ninth through 11th, as Lin became even less aggressive, tossing only jabs. In round 10, Wandee, 22-3 (6), caught Lin, 26-2 (11), with effective body shots to double him up. Lin, however, did his best work in the 12th and final session, when he, for the first time in the bout, released his aggressiveness and shook up Wandee with plenty of left-right combinations. It was not enough, however, as Wandee withstood Lin's punishment until the final bell.

Promoter: Teiken Promotions
(8-23-98)
Joe Koizumi ■

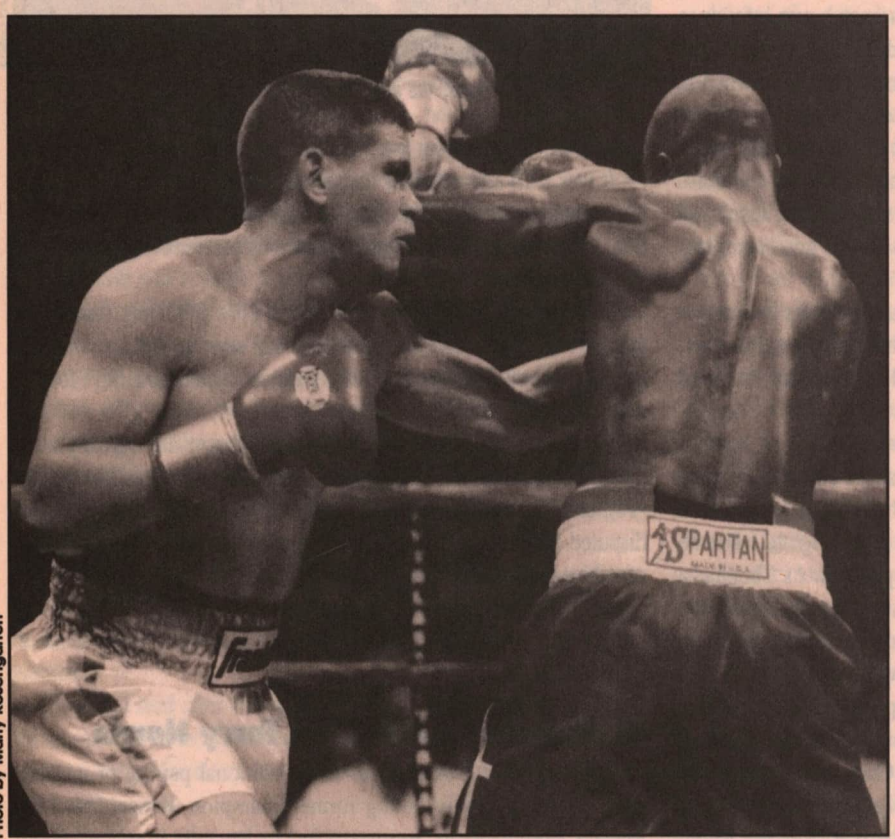

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Rosenblatt built a big early lead

Holyfield vs. Bean

(Continued from page 39)

Bean. Instead, "The Real Deal" turned in his most lackluster performance since revitalizing his career nearly two years earlier with his first victory over Tyson. After failing to get the IBF's mandatory challenger out with an early rush, Holyfield seemed to tire and struggle with Bean through the middle rounds, before putting on a strong enough finish to retain the championships.

It raises some questions about the three-time heavyweight champion, ones that were asked before but forgotten in the aftermath of Holyfield's revival. Was he, just weeks short of his 36th birthday, suddenly an old fighter? Is the toll of all those wars with bigger men like Riddick Bowe, George Foreman, and Michael Dokes starting to show? Can Holyfield keep his focus long enough to complete his declared quest of unifying the title? Is there a chance he won't make it to a showdown with Lennox Lewis? Or was it simply a case of taking Bean lightly? No way, Holyfield insisted.

"I wasn't overconfident," said the champ. "I was fighting a guy that was inspired. This man came here to fight. He proved he had what it took to go 12. He's a better boxer than people give him credit for. Styles make fights. I fought a guy, I don't think he knew what he was going to do. He was awkward. I saw him throw shots I've never seen before."

It would be easy to read too much into Holyfield's performance against Bean. A closer look at the circumstances surrounding the bout might help put things in perspective.

In the months leading up to the bout, Holyfield went through not one, but two training camps. First he spent weeks getting ready for an aborted summer date with Henry Akinwande. Soon after the bout was canceled, he was back in the gym preparing for Bean. Such a process takes a physical toll on a fighter, especially one who is nearing the end of a long career. It is also a demanding mental undertaking, and reaching peak focus so soon after the letdown that had to come with the Akinwande debacle might have been difficult under any conditions.

Fighting at home, especially for a man who places a lot of importance on his place in the community, is another factor to consider. Holyfield invested a lot of time and energy into promoting the event, and went out of his way do everything possible to produce the sellout. He worked with attorney Jim Thomas to gain the support of the city's politicians and sports authorities. He had a financial stake in the gate, as well as concession sales of his Holyfield Warrior line of clothing. In an age where casinos nearly always host even the most minor heavyweight title fight, few champions have played as active a role in staging an event while simultaneously training for it.

Outside the ring, Holyfield also had distractions. His wife gave birth to a son during training camp, and Commander Vander revealed a few days after the fight that he has also fathered two illegitimate children in the past year. He said he told his wife about both and offered a divorce, but the couple opted for counseling instead.

There's also Holyfield's personal history to consider. He has long displayed a tendency to fight to the level of his opposition. Against Bobby Czyz and Seamus McDonagh, he fell into sloppy slugfests. Whenever a Bowe or Tyson was in the other corner, he has risen to the occasion. Faced with cautious opponents like Larry Holmes, Ray Mercer, and Michael Moorer (the first time), he has often had trouble taking the lead and imposing his pace. Bean's unorthodox approach obviously didn't bring out Holyfield's best.

Throw in the fact that nothing in Bean's record could have given Holyfield reason to take the challenge seriously, and it's easy to see that the champ may have been ripe for a subpar performance. Only time will show whether this fight was an aberration or a sign of major decline. ■

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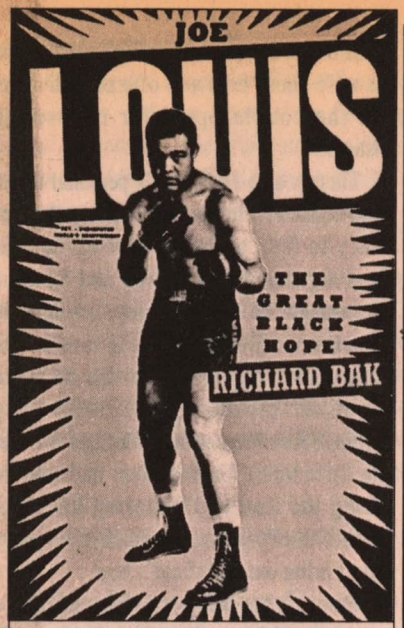

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Shane Mosley

(Continued from page 42)

has power, speed, throws great bodyshots, and comes right back after taking a good shot. If he can stay away from the distractions, he has the style to be an all-time great."

But even if there is, sometime in the future, a performance that falls short of spellbinding, don't be too eager to dismiss Mosley as a Sugar wannabe.

"I don't know how many people today have actually seen Sugar Ray Robinson fight," said Merchant, "but there is a tendency to look back on great fighters, great people in general, and only see them at their best, to see almost a caricature of them. I am second to none in my admiration for Robinson. He was a magnificent athlete and a magnificent prize fighter. But not every fight he ever had should be hung on the wall of the Metropolitan Museum of Art."

Historian Hank Kaplan has been around long enough to have seen many of Robinson's fights live, and certainly knows a special fighter when he sees one.

"Boxing is a game of moves, and Shane has a lot of beautiful moves," said Kaplan. "But he's not quite a Sugar Ray Robinson yet. Ray was so cool, he would use slight of hand to fool opponents, while you can almost predict what Shane is going to do next. But he has lots to build on and his potential is unlimited. He's a beautiful-looking performer, and I think he's going to be a real star."

Sugar Shane also shares some of the pizzazz that helped both Robinson and Leonard expand their celebrity status beyond the realm of hooks and crosses. He has a sprite, bright-eyed look about him and a smile almost as dazzling as his combinations. The elegant outfits he wears into the ring are designed by his girlfriend, and range from a red and gold, Mandarin-style smoking jacket to a number that looks like a black silk business-suit, complete with lapels and chalk stripes. But besides his ring gear, he's yet to adopt the cosmopolitan airs that Robinson and Leonard wore like a second skin. When he speaks, his words bubble forth with confidence and infectious enthusiasm. And unless you're

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the guy on the other end of his punches, he's hard not to like.

If there's a problem on the horizon, it's one familiar to Robinson and Leonard, both of whom were forced to fight larger men after running out of opponents at their natural weight. Although there are still some decent matches that can be made at 135 pounds—WBC titlist Cesar Bazan, hard-hooking Israel Cardona, the always entertaining Arturo Gatti—Mosley would certainly be a heavy favorite against any of them. At this stage of his career, however, his maturing body will probably necessitate a move up to 140 pounds before too long anyway, where an intriguing match with IBF junior welterweight champion Vince Phillips is already a hot topic among the cognoscente. But to earn the kind of legendary status we're talking about, Mosley will eventually need a legendary opponent to hang his star upon, and by the time he gets to the welterweight division, De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad will have already moved on. But all that is down the road; right now, Mosley's fame is in the embryonic stage. Just how great he'll eventually become is still a matter of opinion.

"Among modern fighters, the best lightweights I've seen have been Roberto Duran and Carlos Ortiz," said Merchant. "After that comes Alexis Arguello and Pernell Whitaker. Even if Mosley isn't the next Sugar Ray, I think he'd fit in well with that group, and that alone is high enough praise."

Yes, it is. But as superb as the aforementioned quartet was, not even Duran in his prime was compared to Sugar Ray Robinson. That exalted distinction is reserved for artists who trade their brushes for boxing gloves and create something that transcends the boundary between sport and art. And while Mosley's masterpiece is little more than a rough sketch right now, an image of greatness is rapidly coming into focus. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 18)

an impressive victory over a spoiler who had tested many of the best lower-weight fighters in the world and made his reputation by pulling off a couple of major upsets in recent years.

Atlanta and Argentina may be a world apart, but to Chacon, the surroundings were familiar and friendly.

"It's an honor to be here again," he said, beaming as he spoke through an interpreter in his locker room after the decision in his favor was announced. "I never thought I was going to be back in Atlanta. I made a big name for myself here as an amateur, and it helped me accomplish what I wanted to accomplish. It helped me get started to reach my goal to become a world champion."

The gifted boxer-puncher compiled a 55-9 record as an amateur, making the national team and marking himself as one of his country's rising prospects, but few forecasted major success for Chacon or any of his teammates. While Argentina has produced world champion professionals, the country's Olympic boxing team ranks somewhere between the Jamaican bobsledders and the Japanese men's basketball team in terms of Olympic respectability.

Chacon fought his way to the semifinals before losing to eventual gold medalist Somluck Kamsing of Thailand, catching a few important eyes along the way with his stylish performances.

That Olympic background showed in his victory over Pinckney. Rather than clubbing away in the caveman-like style that has characterized countrymen like Victor Galindez and Juan Roldan, Chacon showed ring smarts and boxing skill to go with more-than-adequate punching power. He has surprisingly quick hands and is a deceivingly difficult target to hit cleanly.

Chacon circled and feinted, using his jab and hook to set up right-hand shots that kept Pinckney off-balance in the early rounds. In the fourth, Chacon halted his lateral movement and suddenly stepped in with a stunning left uppercut that dropped the veteran to the canvas in a heap. Pinckney got up, dusted himself off, and survived the round. He even made an attempt at an aggressive run in the second half of the bout, but Chacon refused to get involved in a punchout, preferring to pile up points and settle for a distance win in his first time out

(Continued on page 62)

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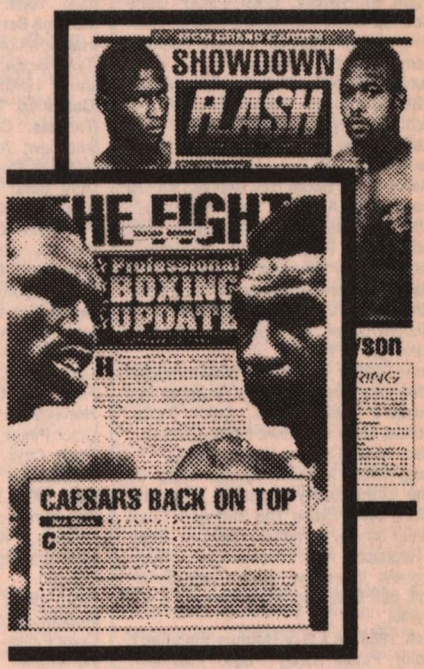

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May 1987: Hagler vs. Leonard: Who Will Win And Why. Color Pinup: Edwin Rosario. Also: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Leonard-Hagler, Bobby Czyz, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1987: Bobby Czyz: Finally, His Accomplishments Match His Appeal. Color Pinup: Sugar Ray. Interview: Lloyd Honeyghan. Also: Mark Breland, Hector Camacho, Weekend Warriors.

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Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King-But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Jan. 1988: The Collapse Of A Hero: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Michael Nunn, Alexis Arguello, lightweights.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

May 1988: KO Exclusive-Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Spinks Poll, Michael Dokes, Virgil Hill.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

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Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

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Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

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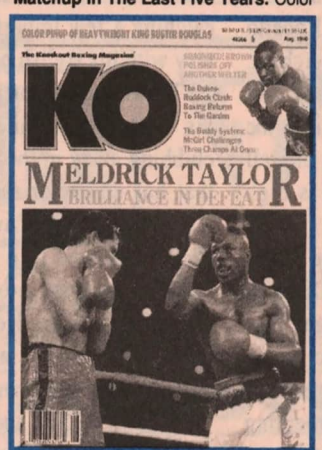

Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.

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New Faces

(Continued from page 59)

against a name opponent.

Considering the opposition, Chacon showed experience and savvy beyond his years in a dominant, if a little overly careful, performance.

"In my opinion, I definitely beat the guy," Chacon said. "He's a strong fighter and a good hitter. My style made the difference. Having a great performance back in Atlanta was what I wanted to accomplish, and I think I did that."

Pinckney, who took the bout on just a few days' notice, brought a resume that included knockout wins over Junior Jones, Guty Espadas, and Luis Leija, as well as competitive points losses to world-class fighters like Fred Norwood, Tracy Patterson, Robert Garcia, Harold Warren, and others in a 50-bout career. Pinckney figured to be a major test for the young South American sensation, but aside from a handful of well-placed rights, he never threatened to take command of the action.

Even with his right eye nearly closed from Chacon's handiwork, Pinckney wouldn't admit to any respect for the youngster.

"He ran throughout the fight," Pinckney complained. "He's got a strong hook with the left hand and a good jab, but his right hand didn't do too much to me. I expected him to fight me and come out fast, but once I caught him with a couple of right hands, he didn't want any part of it."

Chacon's braintrust did their homework. They dictated a cautious approach to Pinckney, a dangerous right-hand puncher in his own right.

"I liked it very much," said manager Oswaldo Rivero. "We knew his opponent was difficult to fight, but we came through with a win."

A stocky, broad-chested youngster with bronze skin, handsome features, and a mop of unruly black hair, Chacon looks more like a pint-sized Antonio Banderas wanna-be than he does a prizefighter. He credits the late Paca Bermudas, a revered amateur coach in Argentina, with teaching him how to use his left hand to control the action and avoid a toe-to-toe brawl. He thinks those skills can take him far.

Chacon is now trained by Antunis Baracamonte, a respected professional trainer in South American circles who has tutored the young talent in his transition to the punch-for-pay ranks.

"I have a good style as a boxer," Chacon said. "I have mastered it. I am not a great hitter, but when I land my best punches, I think I can hurt a man with either hand."

With 25 outings under his belt, one might think Chacon would be poised for a run at the world rankings, but he is in no hurry. Hailing from Argentina, a country where fighting every week is no more uncommon than an apprenticeship of 30 to 40 bouts before becoming a main event attraction, Chacon is prepared to practice patience.

Turning pro in his homeland after returning from the Olympics, Chacon started out by punching his way through the local circuit. Whacking out the likes of Ricardo Romero, Andres Salto, and Jorge Carballo, he won a national title in his 12th outing with an eight-round knockout of Jaime Hernandez, and added the Latin American featherweight championship in his 18th bout with a fourth-round knockout of Angel Rivas.

The Pinckney fight was a solid start toward world-class seasoning, but the maturing process is not yet finished. He has signed a promotional deal with Don King, and will get more opportunities for exposure in the coming months.

The pace sits well with Chacon, who is content to leave the wheeling and dealing to his management.

"I'm only 23 years old," he said. "Only two years have I been a professional. Oswaldo Rivera is the one that

(Continued on page 64)

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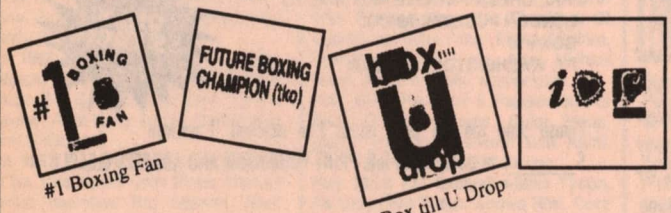

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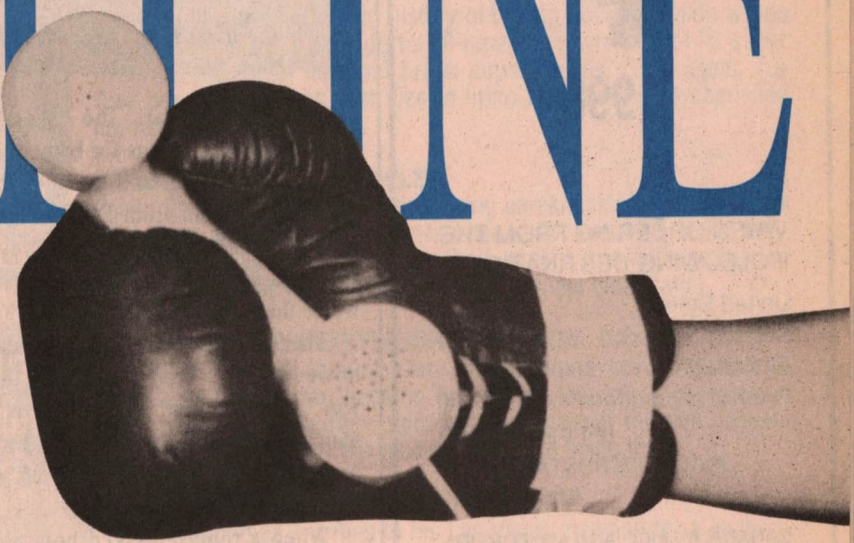

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New Faces

(Continued from page 62)

takes care of that. As soon as he tells me, I will face the challenge. Until then, I try to learn and improve."

So far, Chacon has made a name for himself in Argentina and Atlanta. It should only be a matter of time before the rest of the world catches on. ■

"Windmill" White

(Continued from page 47)

almost 7,000 at the Anaheim Convention Center was for both White's state championship and the NABF belt Quarry had taken from Dupree. Quarry won a decision so close that several reporters wrote that White deserved no worse than a draw.

The loser wasn't especially upset, however. "In a way I'm glad I didn't win," said Windmill. "I could have been matched against Bob Foster, and I might have hurt him. After all, he is 35 years old."

When a reporter asked how old he was, White answered, "Only 34."

His fame having spread far beyond the Golden State, Windmill was imported by promoter J Russell Peltz to enthrall Philadelphia boxing fans against localite Ed Bailey. Did he ever. The February 18, 1974, fight ended in a draw (White later won a rematch), and *Philadelphia Daily News* reporter Tom Cushman wrote that while "Windmill didn't destroy his opponent as he promised ... Bailey was about the only thing he touched that didn't come apart." In the second round, the ropes busted when White leaned on them. After the fight, he addressed the Spectrum crowd to thank them for "putting up with this old man," and brought the entire overhead microphone suspension crashing into the ring.

While he was in Philly, Windmill appeared on *The Mike Douglas Show*. He also made frequent appearances on Merv Griffin's talk show, demonstrating his eye-popping punches and causing more viewer sensation. But that was nothing compared to the ruckus he caused after his March 15, 1974, match with future light heavyweight and cruiserweight title challenger Jesse Burnett in San Diego.

"He knocked me down in round eight, and I jumped up, and the referee just waved the fight off," White recalled. "'I thought you were hurt,' he said. The crowd started booing, and I just stayed in the ring and kept it going. In the heat of the moment, I kinda caused a riot."

So the State Athletic Commission kinda invited Windmill to take his act on the road, and White fought out of state several more times before retiring that year with a 48-15-5 record after stopping unbeaten Randy Miller at the Houston Coliseum in a bout in which, wrote a local reporter, "deciding which weird punch to throw was about the only problem White faced."

Now the operator of his own videotaping business, Windmill is still in the entertainment business, only now as a member of several country line dance and clogging troupes that perform at fairs and conventions. "I have a lot of fun," he said. "Right now, I'm doing it dancing. I used to do it boxing."

But it'll take some Fred Astaire-caliber hoofing to make people forget The Clown Prince Of Boxing. "Even people who don't know who Joe Louis was will perk up when they hear the name of Ray 'Windmill' White mentioned," conceded Hodges.

That goes for even one of his most bitter antagonists, who has not only calmed down after 31 years, but is downright magnanimous toward his old tormentor.

"He really did make me mad," acknowledged Scrapiron Johnson, now 58, with a chuckle. "But I got nothing against Windmill. It was just the style he had, and he got away with it. When he got down to the business of fighting, he could fight some." ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, and is a regular contributor to this magazine.

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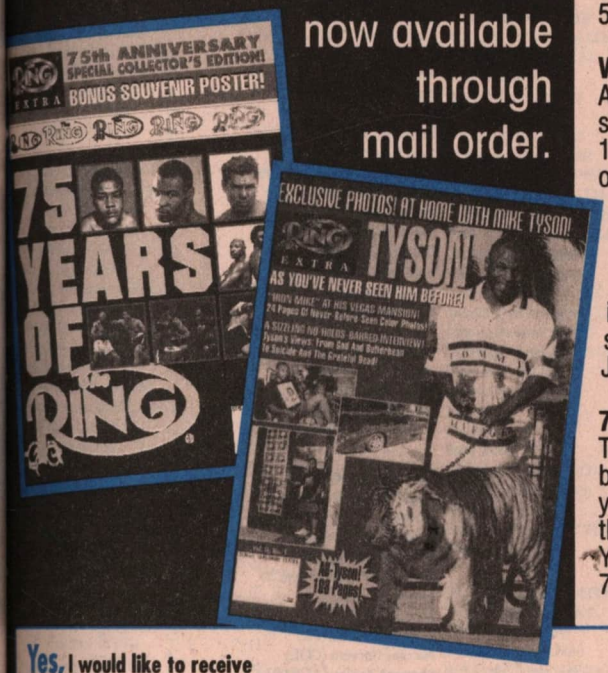

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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of August 1998, the WBC as of August 1998, and the IBF as of September 1998.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	1	2	7
Ray Mercer (USA)	2	3	4
John Ruiz (USA)	3	4	–
Oliver McCall (USA)	4	–	–
David Tua (NZ)	5	–	–
Larry Donald (USA)	6	10	6
Wladimir Klitchko (UKR)	7	12	–
Axel Schulz (GER)	8	–	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	9	–	–
Michael Grant (USA)	10	7	8
Henry Akinwande (GB)	–	1	5
Jade Scott (USA)	25	5	–
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	6	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	21	8	10
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	9	1
Francois Botha (SA)	23	–	2
Hasim Rahman (USA)	24	–	3
Chris Byrd (USA)	15	–	9

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	–	–	C
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	1	9	3
Johnny Nelson (GB)	2	–	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	3	–	–
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	4	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	5	7	–
Dale Brown (CAN)	6	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	7	3	1
Darren Corbett (IRE)	8	4	5
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	9	11	9
Ken Murphy (USA)	10	6	4
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	1	–
Saul Montana (MEX)	15	2	2
Robert Daniels (USA)	13	5	–
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	–	8	–
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	–	10	–
Stefan Anghem (SWI)	–	–	6
Terry Dunstan (GB)	–	12	7
Ramon Garbey (CUB)	21	–	8
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Richard Frazier (USA)	1	4	7
Montell Griffin (USA)	2	10	10
Derrick Harmon (USA)	3	12	12
Michael Nunn (USA)	4	–	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	5	2	8
Mark Prince (GB)	6	–	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	7	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	8	–	–
Fabian Chancelay (ARG)	9	8	–
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	10	–	–
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	24	1	–
Richard Hall (USA)	21	3	4
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	5	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	11	6	6
Anthony Bigeni (AUS)	–	7	–
Ole Klemetsen (NOR)	12	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Taylor (USA)	18	–	3
Mark Prince (GB)	–	–	5
David Telesco (USA)	23	11	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Richie Woodhall (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	C
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	1	–	–
Robin Reid (GB)	2	12	12
Dean Francis (GB)	3	–	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	4	3	3
Eric Lucas (CAN)	5	4	–
Omar Sheika (USA)	6	–	–
Chris Johnson (CAN)	7	11	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	8	9	7
Mads Larsen (DEN)	9	–	–
Glenn Catley (GB)	10	–	–
Bruno Girard (FRA)	11	1	–
Dean Francis (GB)	–	2	11
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	–	5	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	17	6	6
Herol Graham (GB)	–	7	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	8	–
David Starie (GB)	15	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Sven Ottke (GER)	–	–	4
Demetrius Davis (USA)	14	–	5
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	13	–	8
Rick Thornberry (AUST)	28	–	9
Antoine Byrd (USA)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	11	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	1	8	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	2	6	3
Keith Holmes (USA)	3	10	7
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	4	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	5	–	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	6	–	–
Robert Allen (USA)	7	2	1
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	8	9	8
Paul Vaden (USA)	9	–	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	10	7	4
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	1	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	3	–
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	4	6
Peter Venancio (BRA)	18	5	9
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	2
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	28	–	5
Abdula Ramadan (CAN)	–	11	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Mullings (USA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	–	C
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	1	8	10
Tony Marshall (USA)	2	3	–
David Reid (USA)	3	6	9
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	4	–	–
Terry Norris (USA)	5	–	–
Kookyui Song (KOR)	6	–	–
James Coker (USA)	7	–	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	8	–	1
Said Bennajem (FRA)	9	–	–
Jose Alfredo Flores (MEX)	10	–	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	1	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	12	2	–
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	11	4	–
Emmett Linton (USA)	22	5	8
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	7	–
Hector Camacho (PR)	–	9	–
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	25	–	3
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	11	4
Aaron Davis (USA)	–	–	5
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	6
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	–	7

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Vacant	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Derrell Coley (USA)	1	6	6
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	2	–	–
James Page (USA)	3	3	5
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	4	2	10
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	5	9	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	6	–	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	7	8	11
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	8	11	–
Suk Hyun Yun (KOR)	9	–	–
Sergio Acuna (ARG)	10	–	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	13	1	–
Oba Carr (USA)	12	4	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	5	–
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	7	–
Frank Olsen (DEN)	14	10	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	1
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	2
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	3
Vernon Forrest (USA)	11	–	4
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	7
Juan Negron (PR)	–	–	8
Antonio Marqurito (MEX)	27	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	**C**	**–**	**–**
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vince Phillips (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	1	4	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	2	2	6
Reggie Green (USA)	3	10	8
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	4	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	5	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	6	1	2
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	8	–	–
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	9	–	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	10	–	–
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	3	3
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	–	5	–
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	6	–
Freddy Rojas (CHILE)	19	7	5
Juan Coggi (ARG)	13	8	–
Zab Judah (USA)	20	9	4
Terron Millett (USA)	–	–	1
Jonathan Thaxton (USA)	17	–	7
Randall Bailey (USA)	–	–	9
Alex Carillo (COL)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Shane Mosley (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Steve Johnston (USA)	1	–	10
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	2	–	–
Israel Cardona (USA)	3	6	2
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	4	–	–
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	5	8	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	6	–	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	7	5	8
Manuel Fernandes (FRA)	8	–	–
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	9	–	–
James Leija (USA)	10	12	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	–	1	–
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	2	–
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	–	3	1
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	4	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	7	4
Manuel Fernandez (POR)	–	9	–
Angel Manfredy (USA)	14	10	–
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	3
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	–	5
Ivan Robinson (USA)	17	11	6
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	7
Dario Esais (COL)	29	–	9

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Robert Garcia (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	–	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	2	–	–
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	3	–	10
Justin Juuko (UGA)	4	3	7
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	5	8	–
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	6	–	–
Gabriel Ruelas (MEX)	7	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	8	12	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	9	11	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	10	7	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	1	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	22	2	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	4	–
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	5	–
Antonio Hernandez (MEX)	–	6	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	15	9	–
Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	3
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	11	–	4
Arnulfo Castillo (USA)	–	–	5
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	6
Diego Corrales (USA)	–	–	8
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Fred Norwood (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Manuel Medina (MEX)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	1	8
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	2	–	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	3	–	5
Derrick Gainer (USA)	4	–	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	5	–	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	6	11	–
Dramane Nabaloun (BKF)	7	–	–
Takeo Imaoka (JAP)	8	–	–
Injin Chi (KOR)	9	–	–
Billy Hardy (GB)	10	8	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	2	1
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	3	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	–	4	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	5	–
Genaro Rios (NIC)	–	6	–
Chamopekt Chorchamuang (THAI)	–	7	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	9	3
Angel Vasquez (PR)	–	10	2
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	4
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	6
Steve Robinson (GB)	12	–	7
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	22	–	9
Teofilo Carranza (PER)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	–
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	2	–	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	3	8	–
Michael Brodie (GB)	4	11	4
Junior Jones (USA)	5	–	–
Kozo Ishii (JAP)	6	–	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	7	2	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	8	–	–
Ariston Clayton (USA)	9	–	8
Juan Carlos Ramirez (MEX)	10	–	–
Carlos Barreto (VEN)	–	1	–
John Johnson (USA)	–	3	3
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	11	4	7
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	5	–
Richard Carrillo (VEN)	–	6	–
Serge Poilblan (FRA)	22	7	–
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	13	9	2
Choe Chol Su (KOR)	–	10	–
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	1
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	–	–	5
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	15	–	6
Jose Mendoza (COL)	–	–	9
Jason Pires (USA)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Nana Konadu (GHA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Tim Austin (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Adan Vargas (MEX)	1	6	7
Paul Ayala (USA)	2	3	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	3	–	–
Danny Romero (USA)	4	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	5	5	–
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	6	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	7	8	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	8	–	–
Oscar Garro (ARG)	9	12	–
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	10	–	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Sahoiu Phaisarn Gym (THA)	–	2	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	13	4	–
Giovanni Andrade (BRA)	–	7	–
Kozo Ishii (KOR)	–	9	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	–	10	4
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	27	–	3
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	5
Albert Resilay (INDO)	–	–	6
Jorge Otero (COL)	–	–	8
Bernardo Mendoza (CHI)	–	–	9
Cesar Singo (ECU)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Johnny Tapia (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	4	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	–	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	3	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	4	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	5	–	–
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	6	11	2
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	7	1	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	8	–	–
Pone Saengmorokot (THAI)	9	–	–
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	10	10	–
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	–	2	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	3	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	5	11
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	6	–
Takato Toguchi (JAP)	21	7	–
Evangelo Perez (PAN)	–	8	12
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	9	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	3
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	–	4
Eric Morel (USA)	11	–	5
Pedro Pena (USA)	–	–	6
David Vinger (SA)	26	–	7
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	–	–	8
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	9
Pedro Rincon (COL)	28	–	10

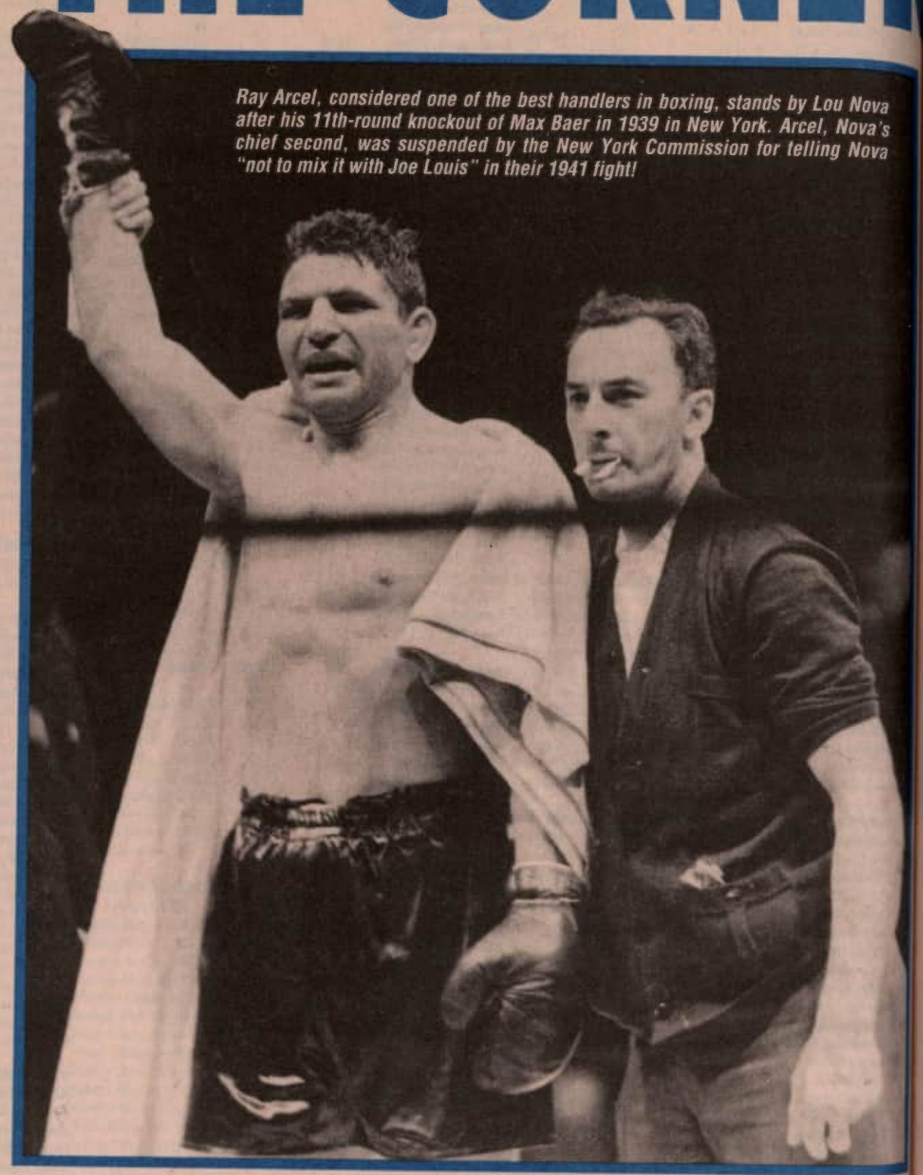
FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Hugo Soto (ARG)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Mark Johnson (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Raul Juarez (MEX)	2	9	–
David Guerault (FRA)	3	7	1
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	4	10	–
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	5	3	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	6	–	–
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	7	–	–
Will Grigsby (USA)	8	6	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	9	–	–
Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)	10	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	1	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	2	4
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	4	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	5	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	8	–
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	12	3
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	5
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	–	–	6
Ilido Julio (COL)	17	–	7
Jose Landin (USA)	–	–	8
Pedro Alcazar (PAN)	–	–	9
Mike Trejo (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**–**	**C**
Yosam Choi (KOR)	1	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	2	1	1
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	3	–	–
Oscar Andrade (MEX)	4	4	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	5	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	6	–	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	7	5	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	8	–	–
Sangik Yang (KOR)	9	–	–
Sandre Oviedo (ARG)	10	–	–
Medngon 3K Battery (THAI)	22	2	–
Oswaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	3	6
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	6	7
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	7	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	–	8	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	9	–
Panieng Pontarat (THAI)	–	10	–
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	2
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	3
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	4
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	5
Jose Sanjuanelo (COL)	–	–	8
Hernan Berrio (COL)	–	–	9
Hawk Makepula (SA)	–	–	10

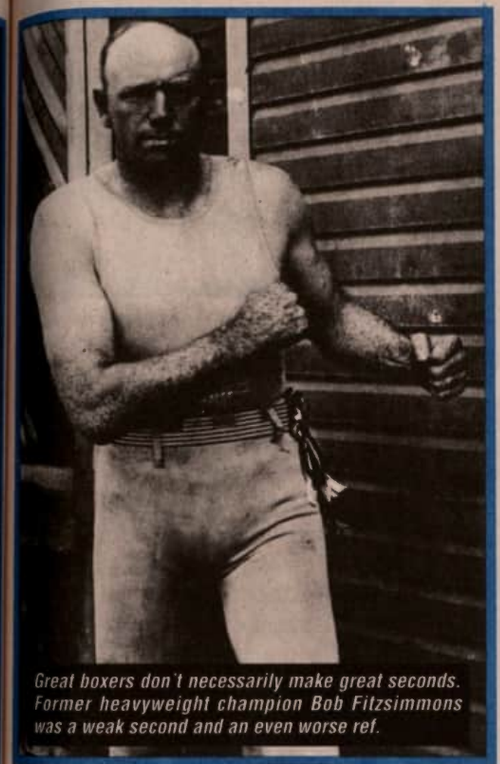
STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Zolani Petelo (SA)	**25**	**–**	**C**
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	1	7	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	2	10	2
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	3	12	–
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	4	8	–
Daniel Reyes (COL)	5	11	3
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	6	–	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	7	5	–
Alex Sanchez (PR)	8	–	–
Jun Arlos (PHIL)	9	–	–
Lakchai Dechakul (THAI)	10	–	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	1	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	3	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	–	4	–
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	29	6	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	9	–
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	–	–	1
Eric Jamili (PHIL)	–	–	4
Mickey Cantwell (GB)	–	–	5
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	6
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	–	7
Jose Laureano (PR)	–	–	8
Mongol Chareon (THAI)	–	–	9
Denkaosan Kaowichit (THAI)	–	–	10

RING CLASSIC

THE CORNER TACTICIANS



Ray Arcel, considered one of the best handlers in boxing, stands by Lou Nova after his 11th-round knockout of Max Baer in 1939 in New York. Arcel, Nova's chief second, was suspended by the New York Commission for telling Nova "not to mix it with Joe Louis" in their 1941 fight!



Great boxers don't necessarily make great seconds. Former heavyweight champion Bob Fitzsimmons was a weak second and an even worse ref.

Jack Blackburn always backed up heavyweight champ Joe Louis. Much of Louis' success could be attributed to Blackburn, whose fight strategies and suggestions Louis trusted faithfully.

Strategic hints by chief seconds are frequently of vast importance to principals in determining the outcome of battles—fistic history records many varied reactions of fighters to advice given them by their handlers

From THE RING, January 1942

By George T. Pardy

(Editor's Note: This is a condensed version)

Most anything can happen—and something frequently does—when boxing commissions put their heads together in a special confab. But in point of most laughable achievements, nothing a commission has hitherto accomplished equals the six-month suspensions of Ray Carlen, manager of Lou Nova, and Willie Gilzenberg, manager of Freddie Cochrane, and the two-month suspension of Ray Arcel, chief second of Nova in the latter's fight with Joe Louis.

What were their crimes?

Well, it seems that Arcel and Carlen erred grievously in not throwing in Nova to slug it out with Louis. Gilzenberg was blamed because, as mentor of "Red" Cochrane, he advised caution when the welter king had Lew Jenkins groggy, and consequently the much deflated lightweight champion was not knocked out.

According to this silly ruling, it appears that seconds must refrain from suggesting discreet tactics to a principal. There must be no careful campaign-plotting in the corner; dog-pit code is substituted for that of the Marquis of Queensbury—slip the bull-terrier's leash and turn him loose to do or die!

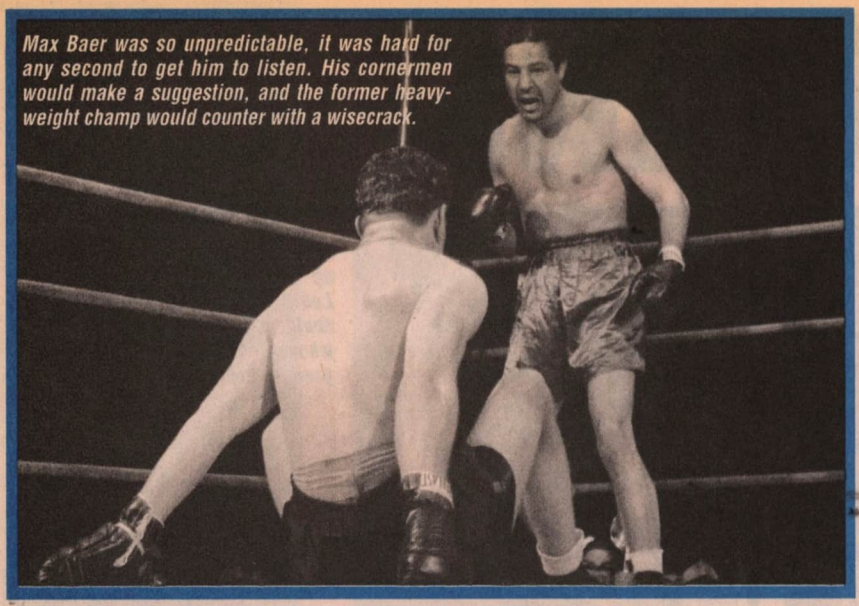
Now, Nova made a poor fight, and some spectators were dissatisfied because Cochrane didn't finish Jenkins. But all that has nothing to do with the fact that the corner advisers were strictly within their rights in directing the strategy of their respective principals, as they deemed best for the latter's interests.

If Nova didn't take chances, neither did Louis, until Louis had his man sized up and he saw fit to go after him. Yet there wasn't any reproof of Jack Blackburn by the commission, because that wily veteran second didn't send the heavyweight champion out for the kill right from the start. Why such discrimination?

As for Cochrane, the latter's handler knew well that Jenkins was always dangerous, even when weak. So, as Cochrane had the fight won by a mile, why should he risk running into a right-hand belt that might stretch him as cold as a canned clam? No second worth his salt would urge a principal to stick out his neck just for a grandstand play. Nor, until now, have misplaced jacks-in-office employed punitive measures against legitimate dictators of ring tactics for warning a boxer to "make haste slowly," instead of offering jaw-target in wild, go-as-you-please slugfests.

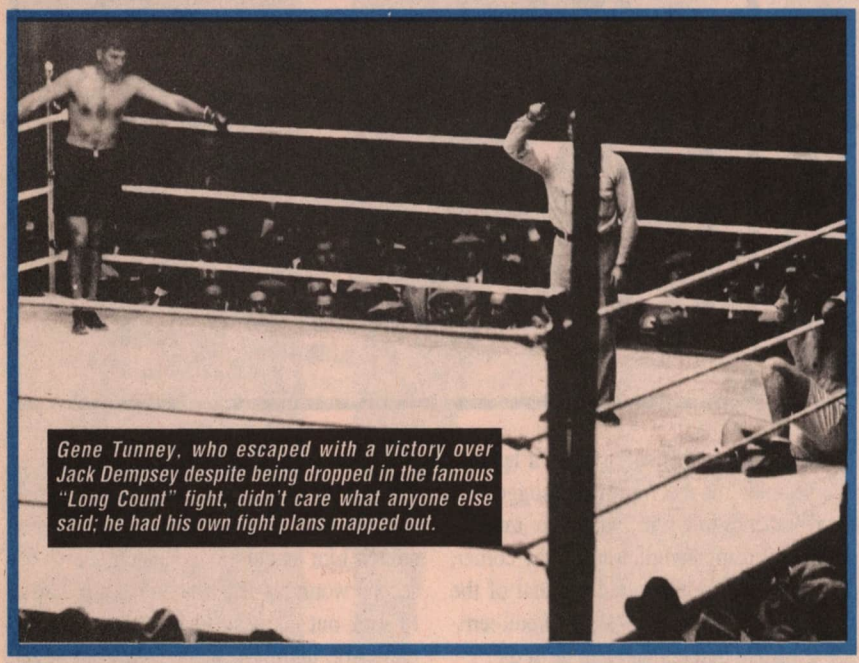
The New York Commission's action would be uproariously funny, if it wasn't so stupid. These pugilistic overlords blundered badly in this latest misuse of authority. It will be interesting to note what the public reaction may be, should they persist in tightening the official strangle-hold on managers, trainers, and seconds who are only trying to perform their duties as directed by custom, tradition, and common sense.

Imagine what effect it would have on the ring performances of many fighters if their seconds' activities were limited to spraying



Max Baer was so unpredictable, it was hard for any second to get him to listen. His cornermen would make a suggestion, and the former heavyweight champ would counter with a wisecrack.

Jack Kearns, pictured with former lightweight champion Benny Leonard, had a simple plan when he was Dempsey's second: "Pull up your socks, and go in and slap that guy down."



Gene Tunney, who escaped with a victory over Jack Dempsey despite being dropped in the famous "Long Count" fight, didn't care what anyone else said; he had his own fight plans mapped out.

water and swinging towels! Take the kingpin of today's fistic set-up, heavyweight champion Joe Louis, and figure for yourself how he would miss Jack Blackburn as a sage adviser.

It would be difficult to overestimate Blackburn's services to Louis. A really great fighter himself a decade ago, Blackburn had formidable opposition then. Twice, as a lightweight, he held Joe Gans even in six-round bouts, and dropped a close 15-round decision to him. As a welter, he drew with Sam Langford in 12- and 15-round battles; and while still in that class, he took on middleweight Philadelphia Jack O'Brien and broke even in a six-round, no-decision contest.

There never was a shrewder ring general, and nobody will deny his mental acuteness in the role of a second. Good fighters aren't always efficient men in a corner. Bob Fitzsimmons, for example, was a bum second and a worse referee, and whenever Jim Corbett went behind a scrapper, that poor sucker never had any luck.

But Blackburn has proved himself every whit as intelligent in an advisory capacity as when he was combining serious thinking with fighting on his own account. No fighter was ever in finer accord with a chief second than Louis with Blackburn. The champion has always trusted Blackburn implicitly, and there can be no doubt that much of his success is due to following out faithfully the campaign plans outlined by that sagacious mentor. Eminently serviceable and great in accomplishments is the Louis-Blackburn combination of slugger and strategist!

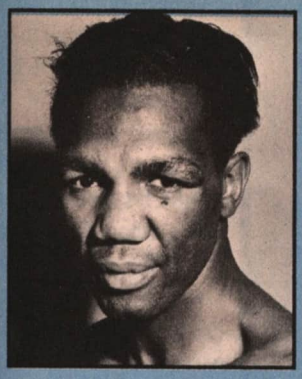
Fighters in action differ in temperament and response to handling as much as do horses on the turf. Where one boxer profits by timely suggestions, another may fight directly opposite to advice given him; even as a jockey's mount may prove a bad starter, a sulker; or a running marvel in complete agreement with his rider.

Louis' predecessor on the heavyweight throne, James Braddock, was an easy chap to direct in the ring. There was never any friction in the latter's corner between Jim and his pal and manager, Joe Gould. The two worked smoothly together, and Braddock fought along whatever lines their mutual judgment decided was most profitable.

Max Baer, from whom Braddock won the title, was a different proposition altogether. A brilliant scrapper in his prime, Max was so utterly erratic that no second could depend upon him to follow any advice, nor was it possible to prophesy what particular form of wild clowning he would resort to in the heat of a furious battle. There was no use in his advisers getting mad and trying to bawl him out, for Max was ever ready with a countering wisecrack. Baer possessed the happy faculty of being able to laugh everything off, and was unconquerably jovial even in the hour of defeat.

The late Joe Jacobs never had any troubles getting Max Schmeling to respond to corner orders. The German boxer, like the average German soldier, was a biddable sort of person who executed commands with Teutonic thoroughness. He lost nothing by

THE RING RATINGS, January 1942



Chalky Wright

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Louis
1. Billy Conn
2. Bob Pastor
3. Lem Franklin
4. Buddy Baer
5. Abe Simon
6. Turkey Thompson
7. Lou Nova
8. Melio Bettina
9. Arturo Godoy
10. Roscoe Toles

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Gus Lesnevich
1. Booker Beckwith
2. Mose Brown
3. Jimmy Bivins
4. Tami Mauriello
5. Anton Christoforidis
6. Billy Soose
7. Ken Overlin
8. Tommy Tucker
9. Joey Maxim
10. Erv Sarlen

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Tony Zale
2. Georgie Abrams
3. Ceferino Garcia
4. Coley Welsh
5. Steve Belloise
6. Antonio Fernandez
7. Shorty Hogue
8. Fred Apostoli
9. Ron Richards
10. Ossie Stewart

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Freddie Cochrane
1. Ray Robinson
2. Fritzie Zivic
3. Mike Kaplan
4. Charley Burley
5. Holman Williams
6. Izzy Jannazzo
7. Cocoa Kid
8. Young Kid McCoy
9. Ernie Roderick
10. Sammy Secreet

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Lew Jenkins
1. Sammy Angott
2. Bob Montgomery
3. Jackie Wilson
4. Lenny Mancini
5. Dave Castilloux
6. Harry Hurst
7. Aldo Spoldi
8. George Latka
9. Ray Lunny
10. Nick Castiglione

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Chalky Wright
1. Ritchie Lemons
2. Harry Jeffra
3. Lou Transparenti
4. Bobby Ivy
5. Joey Archibald
6. Pedro Hernandez
7. Sal Bartola
8. Mike Raffa
9. Jackie Callura
10. Bill Spearcy

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Lou Salica
1. Rush Dalma
2. Kui Kong Young
3. Tony Olivera
4. Kenny Lindsay
5. Manuel Ortiz
6. Tommy Forte
7. Jim Brady
8. Freddy Pope
9. Horace Mann
10. Lupe Cordoza

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Jackie Patterson
2. Little Dado
3. Little Pancho
4. Johnny Shaughnessy
5. Warren Kendall
6. Jimmy Stubbs
7. Luis Castillo
8. Jimmy Stewart
9. Small Montana
10. Joe Curran

this, as Jacobs knew his business as a second and was always quick to pick out any weakness in a scheduled opponent coming in.

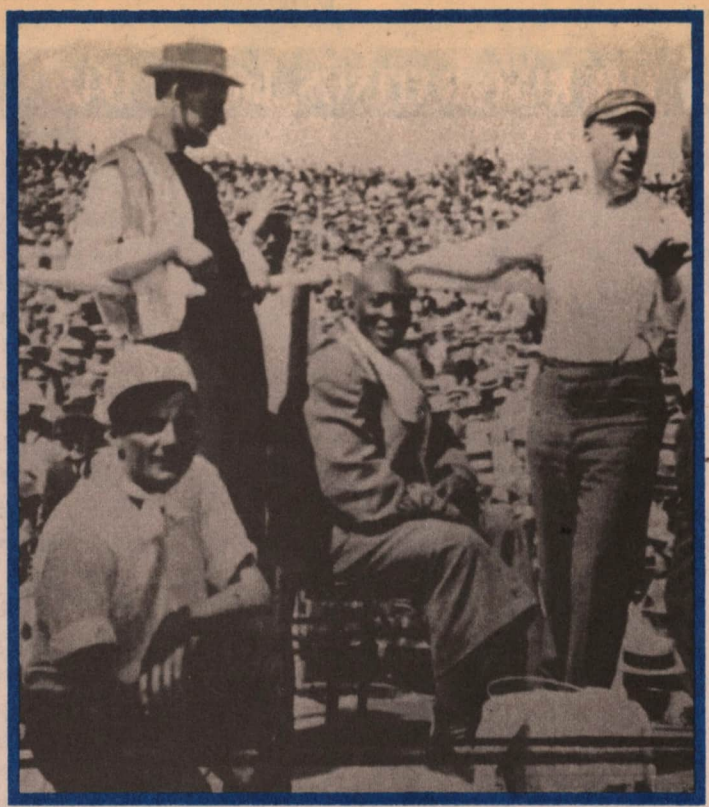
All Gene Tunney's seconds had to do was look after his physical well-being in his corner. Tunney, at any rate after he became a prominent factor in the boxing game, was rather in the habit of planning his own fight altogether and following those plans, without caring much what anyone else said. On occasion, he might welcome a suggestion from veteran Billy Gibson, but as a general thing he preferred to "paddle his own canoe."

When Tunney dazed Dempsey with a right-hand punch on the jaw the instant they faced each other for that first round in the Philadelphia battle when Tunney won the title, "The Manassa Mauler" never quite recovered from the effects of the unexpected punch throughout the remainder of the fray. For, as Dempsey commented, somewhat pathetically, after all was over: "Nobody ever did that to me before."

Carrying the fight to Dempsey right off the jump was Tunney's own idea, and not the offspring of anyone else's brain. It was a similar notion of scoring a kayo that nearly resulted in Tunney's defeat by Dempsey in their second contest, when the former was dropped for the famous long count. But nobody in Tunney's corner was to blame for hair-breadth escape from defeat. The champion never asked for advice and seldom accepted it, considering his own judgment superior to any other brand that might be offered.

Jack Kearns, who piloted Dempsey to the heavyweight throne, usually fell back on one stock piece of advice when he was seconding him. That was simply the terse abjuration, "Pull up your socks, and go in and slap that guy down!"

That was about all the coaching Dempsey ever needed. He only knew one way of milling, to tear in with flying fists and shower punches on an opponent until his man was knocked silly. The nearest concession Dempsey made to defensive tactics was when he occasionally bobbed and weaved, as he charged the foe. It would have done harm instead of good to have persuaded him to box according to some plan of attack. The only time Dempsey seems to have tried to outbox an opponent was in his fight with Bill Brennan in 1920, and he was made to look remarkably foolish, until he suddenly cut loose in the old familiar slugging fashion in the 12th round and scored a knockout.



Jack Johnson never bothered with what his seconds knew, thought, or said. A master of ringcraft, Johnson was a highly intelligent boxer who became the first black heavyweight champion by luring the smaller Tommy Burns to come to him.

The ponderous Jess Willard was one of the most unsatisfactory fighters on earth to go behind. Willard was mentally sluggish, fought at a painfully deliberate pace, and was the despair of seconds endeavoring to accelerate his movements. The no-decision era of New York suited big Jess nicely because he could loaf for 10 rounds without having a black mark scored against him in the official records, so long as he wasn't knocked out completely.

What exasperated his handlers was the certain knowledge they possessed that Willard could hit an ungodly hard wallop if he wanted to. Bull Young died as a result of the hammering he took from Willard's fists at Vernon, California, in 1913, and when Willard knocked out Soldier Kearns before a New York club, Kearns didn't come to for over 20 minutes.

The fact was that Willard never had any enthusiasm for the game. He hated fighting and had little use for its atmosphere and patrons. Willard fought because he wanted money, and that was the easiest way to get it. Also, he hated training. About the only time he worked hard to get himself into shape was when Tom Jones and his assistants took him in hand and made him toil to the limit as they prepared him for the battle with Jack Johnson. With the title and consequent riches in view, Willard submitted to the hard labor stunts, and at Havana, he was as hard as nails and fit to fight 100 rounds, had it been necessary.

On that occasion, his seconds had no trouble with him, for they didn't ask him to hurry up. All he had to do was keep going steadily, countering Johnson, taking whatever Johnson could hand out, and steadily wear down the then-champion by dint of superior strength and endurance. The scheme worked perfectly, and Willard ascended the throne, to which he may be said to have climbed at a more leisurely pace than any of his predecessors.

Johnson never worried about what his seconds knew, thought, or said. Like that other great colored champion, Joe Gans, the lightweight king, Johnson fought his battles along the lines of action devised solely by himself. Gans was, as Johnson is today, an exceptionally brainy individual. Neither required any coaching when in the ring, nor, indeed, would either of them have tolerated interference, no matter how well meant.

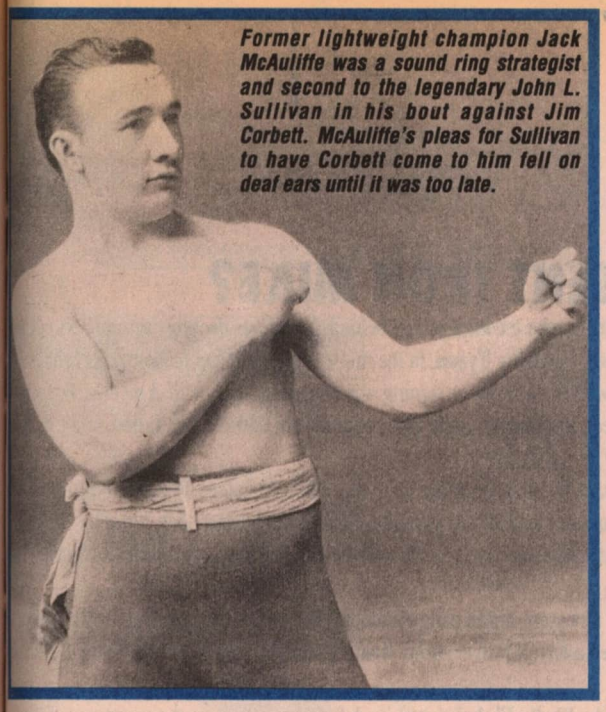
As a master of ringcraft, Johnson had few equals and no superiors. No angle of the game was too small to escape his notice. He knew how to take advantage of every apparently minor happening, and did so, with the best of results for himself. Tommy Burns, whom Johnson defeated for the title in Australia, was a super clever boxer, highly intelligent, and another example of a fighter who was not in the habit of accepting advice in his corner.

Johnson stopped Burns at Sydney, on December 26, 1908, in 14 rounds. When I saw the film reproduction of that battle, my first reaction was one of surprise at the seeming ease with which Johnson outfoxed the usually astute Burns. Fighting under the serious disadvantages of height, weight, and reach, one would have expected Burns to play a waiting game.

But Johnson made the smaller man come to him, up until such a time when Burns was beginning to fade. And it was singular to note how, through most of the contest, the colored boxer seldom took more than a step out of his corner at the beginning of a round and stood there, while Burns came clear across the ring to meet him. Burns was thereby tiring his legs by unnecessary exertion, for he could just as well have refused to take the initiative.

Whether any of the white man's seconds noticed this waste of energy on the part of their principal, I have no way of knowing, but if they did, they apparently kept their mouths shut, maybe for good reason. For as already stated, Burns preferred to "gang his ain gait," as the Scots say, and objected to butting-in henchmen. Not that it would have made any difference ultimately, for Burns was hopelessly overmatched.

It may easily be believed that seconds regathered in John L. Sullivan's corner were not invited to express opinions as to how the big fellow should assault an opponent. Like Dempsey, Sullivan wasted no time on figuring ways and means of milling, but followed



Former lightweight champion Jack McAuliffe was a sound ring strategist and second to the legendary John L. Sullivan in his bout against Jim Corbett. McAuliffe's pleas for Sullivan to have Corbett come to him fell on deaf ears until it was too late.

the simple method of storming in and eliminating an opponent as swiftly as possible.

This didn't work in his final ring encounter, when he felt exhausted in the 21st round at New Orleans before Corbett, and relinquished his crown. On that occasion, his chief second and adviser was lightweight champion Jack McAuliffe, who had just defended his title successfully by knocking out Billy Myers, "The Streator Cyclone," the preceding night, in the same ring where "Sully" was doomed to meet his Waterloo.

McAuliffe, one of the few men who could venture to argue with John L. without getting into trouble, knew that his great pal and fighting contemporary had gone back considerably, and though, such was his faith in Sullivan that he believed the latter had a chance to win, the lightweight champion was fully aware that the Boston slugger could not afford to carry the fight to the young, slim, nimble-footed Corbett.

Therefore, McAuliffe did his best to hold Sullivan back, telling him to let Corbett do the forcing. But despite this warning, Sullivan persisted in rushing, round following round. Corbett punished him with lightning hooks and jabs, keeping out of danger of his fierce opponent's heavy wallops. Along about the 17th round, Sullivan, on coming back to his corner, panting furiously as a result of his exertions, remarked to McAuliffe:

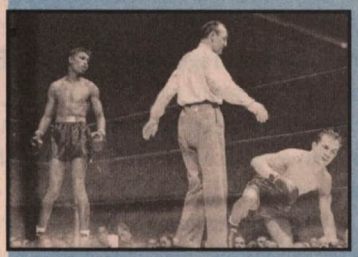
"I guess you're right, Jack. This fellow's too hard to catch. I guess I'll stay away from him."

"The hell you will," responded the disgusted lightweight monarch. "It's too late now."

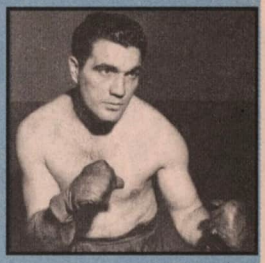
And so it proved. McAuliffe always contended that if Sullivan had made Corbett come to him, instead of chasing him around the ring, the big fellow might have won, even though he wasn't within 50 percent of his oldtime-fighting efficiency. But that was probably wishful thinking on McAuliffe's part. McAuliffe was a first-class second, none better, either in his time or today. But the best second on earth can't make a winner out of a gladiator who has passed his peak and has little left but gameness! ■

THE RING, January 1942

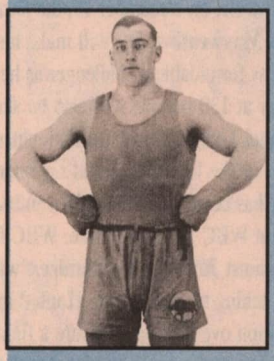
The Cover: THE RING reflected on the career of the great Joe Louis. Where did Louis fall among the pantheon of heavyweight greats? Attempts to reach an answer were inconclusive, as it was reasoned that comparisons with the past would be unfair because of the changing boxing styles. There was one conclusion: Louis' first-round knockout of Max Schmeling was his greatest achievement.



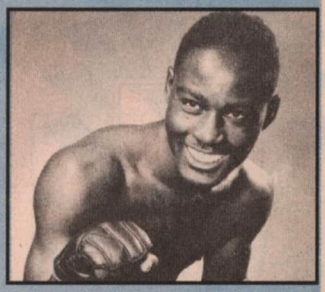
Sugar On The Move: THE RING noted the emergence of rising star Ray Robinson, who captured his 25th victory without a loss by beating Fritzie Zivic by 10-round decision. In the opinion of THE RING editor Nat Fleischer, Robinson could have beaten both lightweight champion Lew Jenkins and welterweight king Freddie Cochrane if given the chance at either of those titles.



Golden Glove Grads: THE RING reviewed some of the great fighters that have come from the Golden Gloves. Light heavyweight contender Joey Maxim was touted as one of the greatest Golden Glove prospects to ever come out of the Cleveland metropolitan area.



Size Doesn't Matter: THE RING demonstrated through historical examples that size does not always count when it comes to boxing. Behemoths from as far back as 1751 were traced up through Jess Willard and the latest giant, 265-pound Primo Carnera. Regardless of their huge presence, these ambling big men were all too slow and awkward to be truly great.



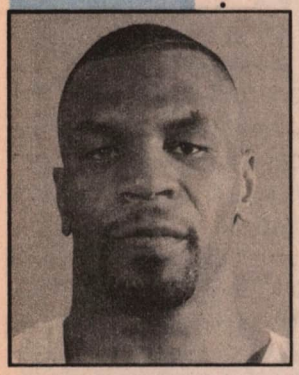
From New Face To Stardom: Big things were predicted in the "New Face" section for a kid from Cincinnati, Ohio, named Ezzard Charles. Charles was a rapidly growing middleweight who by the end of the decade would become heavyweight champion.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

WILL AMERICA PRESENT IRON MIKE?

You never know who to believe in boxing, especially where contracts and behind-the-scenes dealings are concerned, but the hot rumor circulating as we went to press suggested that **Mike Tyson**, in the midst of trying to persuade the Nevada State Athletic Commission to restore his boxing license, was on his way to signing a promotional deal with **America Presents**. How much truth is there to the talk of a union between the Denver-based promotional firm and the two-time former heavyweight champ? Depends on who you ask.



Tyson: America Presents bound?

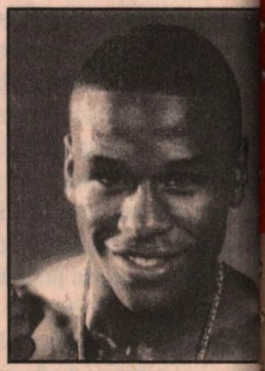
One source who requested anonymity said he suspected the deal was likely to come together regardless of whether Tyson's license is returned, while another said it was common insider knowledge that America Presents' **Dan Goossen** had been "chasing" Tyson. But both America Presents and the Tyson camp were quick to dismiss the information as rumor and nothing more.

"Right now, there's nothing to say on it," Goossen said in early-October. "We don't have any deals with Mike or anybody associated with Mike." Goossen shied away, however, from giving a straight answer as to whether he'd had any contact with Tyson's people.

A Tyson spokesman referred to THE RING by **Shelly Finkel** was quite definitive in denying the assertions: "That's absolutely not true. Right now, Mike Tyson's just thinking about getting his license back, not who could be his next promoter."

Of course, **Don King** claims that Tyson is still officially under his promotional reins, so all bets would certainly be off if Iron Mike were to stay with King despite their falling out early in '98. Just don't be completely surprised if America Presents takes a step up into the big money by securing a deal with Tyson before the year is out.

LISTEN UP



Mayweather: Challenging fir defense

An outstanding doubleheader is headed to HBO on December 12, with both the main event and the co-feature packing Fight of the Year potential. The rematch between **Ivan Robinson** and **Arturo Gatti**, pushed back from its original November 14 date because of Gatti's anticipated problems having enough time to get down to 135 pounds, will headline the show, while **Fernando Vargas** will attempt to become the second member of the '96 U.S. Olympic team to win a world title when he challenges IBF junior middleweight champion **Yory Boy Campas** in the semifinal. Meanwhile, on December 19, the *first* member of that Olympic squad to capture a world belt, **Floyd Mayweather Jr.**, will make his initial defense of the WBC super featherweight title against as formidable a challenger as he could have found: **Angel Manfredy**. That battle for supremacy at 130 pounds will also be shown on HBO ... The return of undefeated heavyweight **Michael Grant**, who hasn't fought since May, has now been pushed back to January. At the top of the list of potential opponents is 34-year-old **Razor Ruddock** ... An excellent co-feature has been added to the November 28 HBO card featuring **Kostya Tszyu** vs. **Miguel Angel Gonzalez** for the long-vacant WBC 140-pound title. WBC featherweight champion **Luisito Espinosa**, who barely survived his August defense against **Juan Carlos Ramirez**, will defend against former 122-pound titlist **Kennedy McKinney**. McKinney had been itching to get **Naseem Hamed** in the ring since upsetting **Junior Jones** last December, but will look to vent his frustration over failing to secure a fight with "The Prince" on Espinosa. For all Espinosa's skill, if McKinney can find his chin with his booming right hand, the Filipino's three-year reign will almost certainly come to an end.

Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Evander Holyfield	Lennox Lewis	7-5	The public bets Evander; I like Lewis
Floyd Mayweather Jr.	Angel Manfredy	8-5	Great fight between young stars
Erik Morales	Marco Antonio Barrera	9-5	Morales the best at 122 pounds
Vaughn Bean	Zeljko Mavrovic	3-2	Both men can fight a little; edge to Bean

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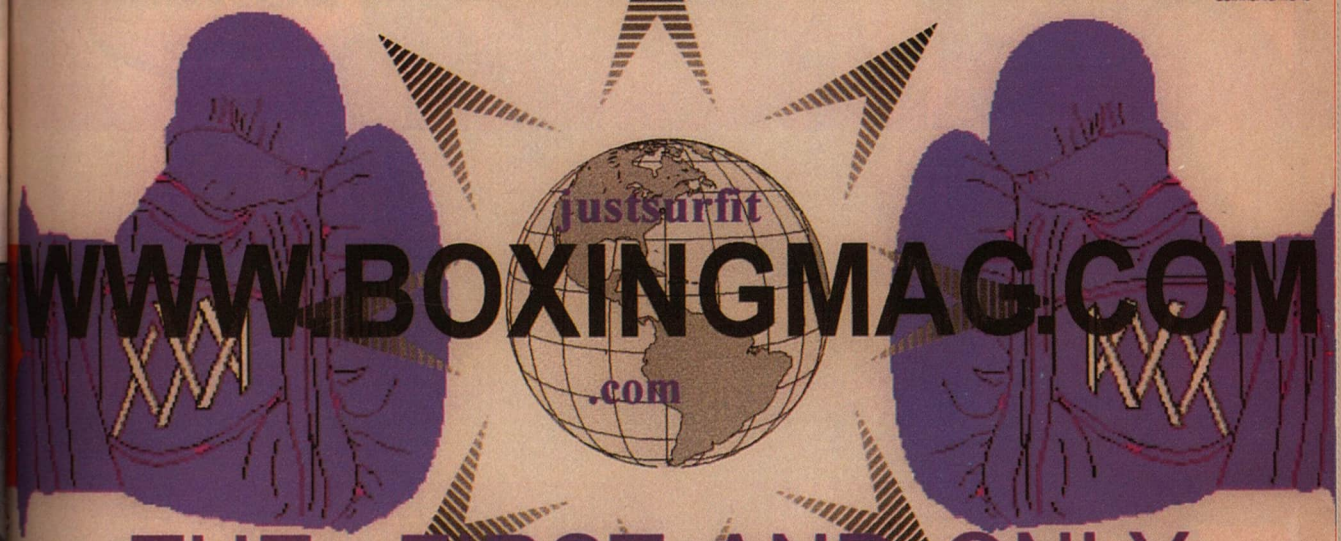

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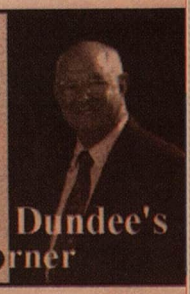

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